The Middlebury Campus

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PLOWING AHEAD

Vlad Lodoaba

Cutting through the powder at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl, a member of the Class of 2003.5 participates in the annual ski-down graduation celebration as fellow graduates look on. Ninety-eight students had the opportunity to ski or snowboard in the two-decade-old tradition. A more traditional ceremony also took place in Mead Chapel to honor mid-year graduates.

Health alert puts campus on guard

By Andrea Gissing
Associate Editor

Middlebury College officials issued a health advisory last week following the death of Jason Fleishman '03.5 on Feb. 1. Fleishman succumbed to a form of meningococcal disease known as acute bacterial septicemia — a condition in which his blood was infected by bacteria.

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, which resides in the mucous membranes in the carriers' noses. The bacterium, according to Dr. Mark Peluso, director of Parton Health Center, can cause several types of illnesses, including the more commonly known meningitis, which Fleishman did not have. Peluso said, "There is a five to 10 percent rate of carriage in any given population." The bacterium is not a highly invasive species, as evidenced by the fact that thousands of people carry it and there are only a few cases of illness recorded per year. "Once it gets into your blood stream, however," he continued, "it's a bad actor."

Peluso said that cases of meningococcal disease are more prevalent in the winter, hypothesizing that the mucosa in the noses of carriers have increased opportunities to be altered by winter colds or the flu.

The College community was notified of Fleishman's death and of the disease by e-mail, and letters were mailed home to parents. "We have received lots of calls and e-mails from concerned students and parents," Peluso said. Both parents and students have asked what the risk is to people living on campus, how the disease was caused and what preventative measures can be taken to avoid getting sick.

See Disease, page 3

College to open new overseas schools

By Caroline Stauffer
News Editor

Eight years ago, Middlebury College boasted five schools abroad in five countries. Next fall, the College will have seven schools spread over 20 sites in 10 countries.

Included among these, four schools in China, Brazil and Mexico will open their doors next September. The new school in China, located in Hangzhou, is the result of an eight-year effort, according to Director of Off-Campus Study David Macey.

In 1999, a plan to open a school in Beijing failed, in part due to lack of interest. That same year, Middlebury hired an outside consultant to investigate other programs in China.

"We wanted to identify a city and institution where we could have a high degree of autonomy and control over hiring teachers," Macey said. He also emphasized the importance of students having Chinese roommates.

The next step was to visit two cities in spring 2000 — Quing Dao and Hangzhou — along with a few comparable programs in Beijing.

A second visit to Hang Zhou took place in spring 2002. After a representative from an institution in Hangzhou visited Middlebury and still no agreement was reached, the College partnered with CET academic programs, which found an alternate program in the same city.

Macey emphasized that while the former program in Harbin, China — almost the exclusive destination for students studying in the country for the past 12 years — was not flawed, the new program is an improvement.

"We weren't dissatisfied with Harbin, we just wanted to do better," he said.

Macey expects the Hangzhou program to attract non-Middlebury students as well, possibly accounting for half of participants.

Indeed, Hangzhou is a desirable site for the Middlebury-tailored curriculum. West Lake, the most famous lake in Chinese literature and culture, is nearby.

"Hangzhou is full of cultural artifacts. It is a rich cultural environment, unlike many big cities where new construction is replacing anything with cultural value," Macey said.

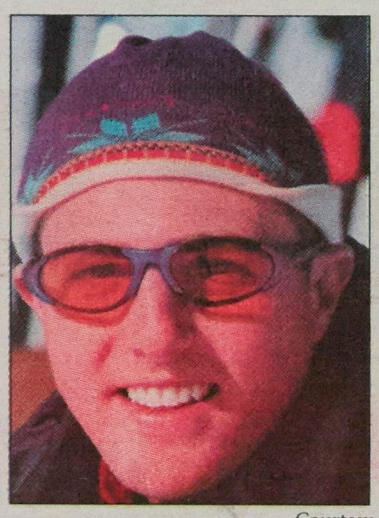
The program seeks to utilize this rich cultural tradition. "We make a deliberate effort to incorporate language learning into a larger cultural framework," he added.

Classes at the Hang Zhou program are entirely in Chinese, and students sign a Language Pledge. They will each have one American and one Chinese roommate.

"Hangzhou will entice more students to go to China for their semester abroad," Jamie Wong '06 said. "Studying in China will undoubtedly be an incredible learning experience, and considering Hangzhou's nickname is 'Heaven on Earth,' I don't know a more enticing place that I would rather be."

See Four schools, page 5

Middlebury mourns loss of recent graduate



Courtesy

Jason Fleishman '03.5 was a past president of the College Ski Patrol.

By Tom Drescher
Assistant News Editor

Jason Fleishman — a neuroscience major from Vail, Colo., and member of the Middlebury College Class of 2003.5 — died suddenly last week of a meningococcal disease, only one day after the ski-down celebration for mid-year graduates. His tragic death came as a shock to family, friends and the College community.

Funeral services were held in Fleishman's hometown of Vail last Thursday and Friday. According to Todd Falcone '03.5, a close friend of Fleishman's, more than 20 Middlebury students — both current and alumni — traveled to Colorado to attend the services and spend time with Fleishman's family. Wonnacott Commons Dean Matt Longman '91 and Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association were also in attendance. College officials are currently planning a memorial service to be held on campus later this month.

At Middlebury, Fleishman was a former president of the Ski Patrol, a trained Emergency Medical Technician and a February Outdoor Orientation leader. He was also involved in a number of community service activities, and devoted a great deal of time and energy to the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont as a board member. Fleishman's most recent contribution to the Foundation was "Raise the Volume," a benefit concert held this January.

According to Professors Barbara Hofer and David Parfitt, Fleishman planned to attend medical school after taking some time off to pursue other interests. Hofer remembered him as "a remarkable individual who gave enormously of himself — to his friends, to classmates, to organizations, to the community." Parfitt described Fleishman as "a caring, considerate student."

"Jason would have succeeded at whatever he did and the world would have been better for it," said Hofer. "He genuinely cared about making a difference for others."

Fleishman is survived by his mother Tina Fleishman, a psychologist who lives in Vail and his father Craig Fleishman of Denver; also stepfather Frank Johnson; sister Jodi, 18, and brother Brett, 21.

Fleishman's family has asked that all contributions in his memory be made to the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont.

In an all-campus e-mail last week, President McCardell echoed the thoughts and feelings of the College community: "The loss of this energetic, caring, compassionate young man will be mourned by all of us who had the privilege to know him and will be felt by all those whose lives will be diminished because Jason's own life has been cut so tragically short."

MIDDBRIEFS

BY CAROLINE STAUFFER

Campus copes with loss

The Center for Counseling and Human Relations is available to address student grief in response to the death of Jason Fleishman '03.5. "Over the years, when there have been sudden losses and deaths, we in the counseling center have responded in a variety of different ways," Director Gary Margolis said.

Specific to the current tragedy, the Center has talked with people who were close to Fleishman and communicated with the Health Center, chaplains and commons deans to coordinate counseling efforts.

Margolis noted the importance of distinguishing a sudden and completely unexpected loss, such as that of Fleishman, from losses that can be anticipated. While both can generate deep and painful grief, an unexpected death can also cause shock and difficulty putting the death into context, Margolis said.

The timing of Fleishman's death is also significant in terms of grieving. Students reacted over break by reading e-mails and connecting with friends, while some attended Fleishman's memorial services in Colorado. As students come back to campus — where memories of Fleishman reside — the grieving process continues.

Margolis also noted that grief is not limited to those who were closest to Fleishman. "Because we are a caring and close community, empathetically we share the loss and share the grief," he said. Furthermore, if someone has experienced a previous loss, this kind of sudden death can rekindle these feelings, suggested Margolis.

He explained that emotions felt during the grieving process can include deep sadness, confusion or even frustration and anger. This can be accompanied by difficulty focusing or concentrating and questioning whether what is happening now has any meaning. The Center for Counseling and Human Relations is available to talk with students individually, as well as in conjunction with their commons deans, or in groups.

Febs Make Diverse Class

The Class of '07.5 at a glance:

117 students total
34 states represented
1 international student
1 transfer student
More than half were captains of high school athletic teams
20 students were student body presidents
8 were editors of their school newspapers
1 student is ranked seventh in the U.S. for cross country mountain bike racing
1 student performed in Circus Smirkus (a youth touring circus) as a trapeze artist, an acrobatic and as a juggler

Room draw to be revamped

By Meredith Kernan
Staff Writer

For the few students lucky enough to receive an elusive single-digit number and score a senior house or a LaForce suite, room draw is a time of celebration and veritable collegiate bliss. But for those burdened with hopelessly high numbers, confused about choosing potential roommates or frustrated by hopes of remaining in a commons that cannot accommodate them, room draw can be a problematic and even traumatizing experience.

But things could be about to change.

Associate Dean of the Faculty Tim Spears and other members of the administration, including President John McCardell, are currently reviewing a proposal for a completely revamped room draw process that, if approved, would be adopted this spring. Although the actual details of the proposal have not been made public, the new system would allow more rising sophomores to remain in their commons and make the block draw process less arbitrary and more commons-based while still respecting seniority.

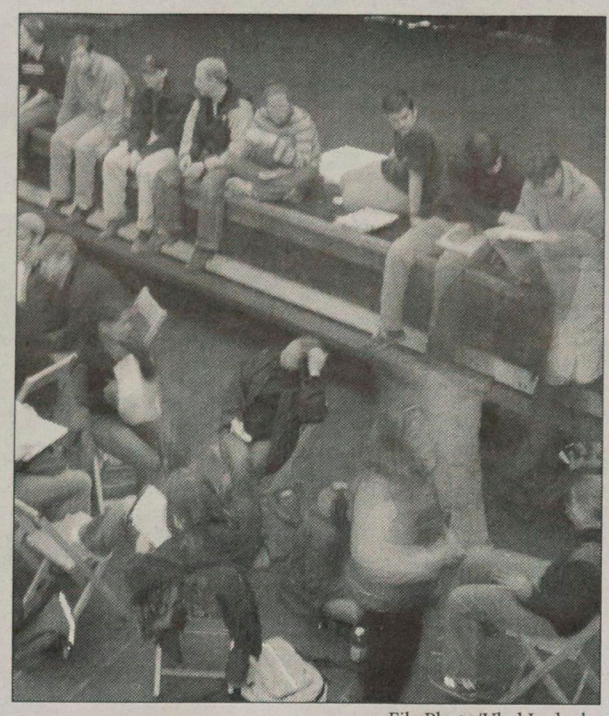
"We're all about trying to create a room draw that seems fair, as fair as possible, given the goals that we are trying to achieve here, to provide more opportunity for continuing commons for first-years and to continue this development of the commons system in the context of a changing campus environment," said Spears.

The need for a revised room draw system came about in response to an April 2003 article in *The Middlebury Campus* decrying the housing situation on campus. At last year's room draw, 77 rising sophomores living in Wonnocott were forced to switch commons because of a lack of space. The housing crunch did not improve this fall, when students returned to campus to find that the majority of floor lounges had been converted into rooms.

A Room Draw Committee was formed in mid-September to draft recommendations for a new room draw system that would address and provide solutions to students' concerns. Faculty members on the Committee include Dean of Cook Commons and Committee Chair David Edleson, Residential Systems Coordinator and Atwater Liaison Kelly Bevere and Ross Commons Faculty Head Steve Abbot. Students are represented by Brainerd resident and former Junior Counselor and commons co-chair Eric Ambrette '04 and Wonnocott resident Nick Campofranco '06.5.

After meeting with and receiving input from Residential Life staff and various student groups, including Student Government Association cabinet members, the Community Council and the Inter-Commons Council, the Committee picked two primary concerns to address in its proposal.

The first was to ensure that rising sophomores who wished to would be able to continue in their commons. "This has to do with the impact of the commons system as a kind of community — in terms of students forming relationships with deans and faculty heads, and students forming relationships with students they live with their freshman year," said Spears. "I took a number of calls from parents who were upset or concerned that their sons or daughters hadn't been able to stay in their commons from one year to the next."



File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

Rising juniors pass the time at room draw in McCullough Social Space last spring.

To allow rising sophomores to remain in their commons, the Committee hopes to rearrange the order of commons draw and open draw to grant more choices to younger students. In the past, rising juniors had the opportunity to pick a room through commons draw, and then through open draw, forcing rising sophomores to pick from the little that was left over.

The Committee's proposal changes this policy by allowing rising sophomores to draw within their commons directly after rising juniors' commons draw.

The second major proposed change alters block draw and places increased emphasis on commons loyalty. "I would describe it very simply as a plan that dispenses with the random draw numbers," said Spears. While in the past one lucky person with a low number could pull in friends with high numbers to get a suite or a house, the new system would assign points to students based on the number of semesters they have spent at Middlebury and the number of semesters they have lived in their commons.

"Students would be in better control of the resources at their disposal to make choices in terms of room draw," added Spears.

First-year political awareness rebounds

By Daniel Phillips
News Editor

Incoming Middlebury College students lead the way as college freshmen nationwide continue to forge a new trend of keeping up to date with political affairs, according to a survey released Jan. 26 by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles' (UCLA) Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. The fall 2003 survey found that 33.9 percent of American college freshmen — versus 54 percent of Middlebury first-years — felt "keeping up to date with political affairs" was an essential life goal.

This rise in political engagement is part of a three-year rebound after the study yielded a record-low of 28.1 percent in 2000. However, the UCLA data is still only close to half of what it was during the late 1960s — 60.3 percent in 1966 — when the survey began.

Eric Davis, secretary of the College and professor of political science, cites the Vietnam War, the riots of 1968 and the assassination of John F. Kennedy as reason for such a high level of student interest during the 1960s. Davis explained that engagement remained high through the early 1970s when the Vietnam War, the Nixon presidency and Watergate were still issues of public concern. Davis noted "quite a precipitous drop in quite a short amount of time" of political interest during the late 1970s at a time when American cynicism toward and alienation from the government burgeoned.

After a plateau of incomplete data during the 1980s, the importance of keeping up with world politics continued to drop in the conscience of college freshmen nationwide, which Davis suggests was due to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War and the go-go economy that focused on more personal interests. "I certainly saw that in terms of talking with students," he said.

"Maybe when the private economy offers more to families, public policy is less significant in affecting students' choices in what they do after college," said Davis. He explained that former President Bill Clinton had opponents on a more personal level during the "relatively quiescent" 1990s.

But Davis distinctly remembers seeing the trend switching — both on campus and at colleges nationwide — after his involvement in forums organized on campus following the 2000 presidential election and the subsequent Florida court cases. This resurgence of interest in political affairs has also thrown into sharp relief the personal importance American college first-years continue to place on influencing the political structure themselves — 20.1 percent now, as compared to 19.6 percent last year and a 17.1 percent low in 1999.

The survey also uncovered increasing polarization of the political spectrum as 22.7 percent of students identified themselves as "conservative" or "far right," compared to 21.3 percent of last year's freshmen. Although the number of students who adhere to a "far left" label has actually increased among our nation's first-years — rising from 2.5 percent to 2.8 percent — the popularity of a "liberal" identity has declined from 25.3 percent to 24.2 percent. Just over one-half — 50.3 percent — of the students surveyed consider themselves "middle-of-the-road," thus the political party sway among college first-years still favors the left, as it always has throughout the 38-year span of the UCLA study.

Beyond the political arena, the importance of raising a family ranked the highest among the survey's list of 21 values as a record 74.8 percent of America's freshmen along with a close 72 percent of Middlebury first-years felt it was an essential life goal. However, the second highest priority of college first-years, "being very well-off financially," varied substantially from the interests of the incoming Middlebury class — a nationwide 13-year high point of 73.8 percent versus a 55 percent interest among Middlebury first-years.

"It is important to participate and to contribute to the knowledge of college students across the country," said Phil Benoit, the College's director of Public Affairs. "It's very useful to have that sort of information if we're lacking in one area, and it's good to know why that is," he said. "We do things to adjust our recruitment procedure to make sure we're getting our message across."

According to Becky Brodigan, director of institutional research and development, 576 out of the 580 members of Middlebury's Class of 2007 took the survey before receiving tickets to register for classes in Fletcher Field House last September. "We cannot force anybody to do it, but we use the information a lot," said Brodigan, who explained that the data is used to compile a profile of the first-year class.

OTHER FRESHMEN SURVEY STATS: THE NATION vs. MIDDLEBURY

Grade Inflation: "Students earning 'A' or 'A+' averages in high school":
46.6% vs. 41% (34% male, 42% female)
Importance of Succeeding Financially:
73.8% vs. 55% (62% male, 50% female)
Importance of Developing a Meaningful Philosophy of Life:
39.3% vs. 63% (gender divide even)
Students Claiming "None" as Their Religious Preference:
17.6% vs. 37% (given the choice between 17 different religions, one "other" and "none")

UCLA data based on 276,449 student responses from 413 of the nation's baccalaureate colleges and universities. Middlebury data based on responses from 576 of 580 first-year students from the Class of 2007 compiled by the Office of Institutional Research

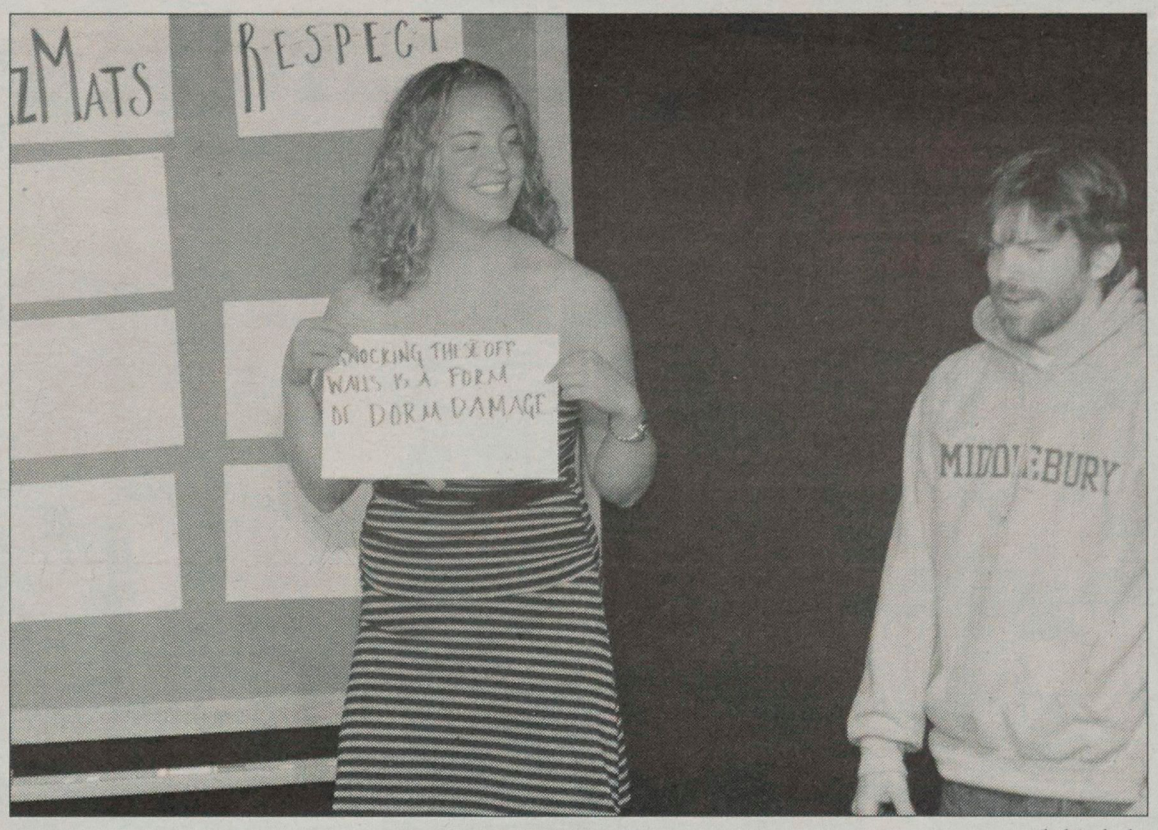
Febs pledge dry first week

By Dan Shea
Staff Writer

For nearly 30 years, Middlebury College has admitted 100 to 120 first-years for matriculation in February. Over time, the Febs, as all Middlebury students call them, have developed their own set of traditions and institutions — among these is February Orientation. The primarily student-run Feb Orientation offers a week for the new Febs to acquaint themselves with the College under the guidance of a Feb upperclassman. For as long as anyone can remember, Feb Orientation has tended to be an alcohol-free event, a fact of which many Febs are proud.

This year, however, the student leaders decided as a group to allow individual leaders to present their first-years with a pledge to abstain from alcohol and other drugs for the duration of Orientation. Each of the leaders agreed to take part in this experiment, undertaken "for the betterment of Orientation," according to Feb Orientation co-chair Devin Green '04.5. "We wanted to ensure that there would be no exclusion [during Orientation, and] drinking breeds that. It creates a different atmosphere," said Green.

On the first night of Feb Orientation, each group leader presented to his or her group of nine first-years a pledge that the leader had drafted him or herself. The first-years were then given the option of signing a copy of the pledge. "Most people accepted it," recalled Thomas Gardner '07.5. The reaction for some, said Caroline Kensler '07.5, may have been "one of surprise, but no one had any problem with it." And the pledge seems to have been successful. Although he acknowledges that there may have been some drinking, somewhere, Gardner noted, "People would go out and abstain [from alcohol]."



Vlad Lodoaba

The talent show during Feb Orientation featured a spoof of Jeopardy that tackled issues pertaining to drug and alcohol policies along with dorm damages. Febs could willingly sign a pledge to stay sober during the week.

Pledges set an improper tone for students wanting a first impression of Middlebury.
—Sam Rodriguez, SGA President

Yet, despite the measure's apparent success, Student Government Association (SGA) President Sam Rodriguez '04 is piping mad, and he believes that it is the place of the SGA to do something about the pledges. Rodriguez sees such pledges as "unnecessarily paternalistic" for students who are old enough to buy cigarettes and vote. Moreover, he believes that the pledges "set an improper tone for students wanting a first impression of Middlebury." In his view, they misrepresent the school to its newest students. Rodriguez thinks that the Honor Code, which is also administered during Orientation but does not expire at week's end, is undermined by this pledge.

Rodriguez has voiced his disapproval to many of the individual leaders, often to their chagrin. But Green, citing the amount of work that the leaders put into making Orientation a rewarding experience, argues that Rodriguez "has no idea of what Feb Orientation is." For her, the pledges were not paternalistic. They were administered in order to create a more memorable week, not to send a "moral message." Green argues that the pledges do not undermine the Honor Code, which the incoming Febs signed three days after the alcohol pledges. "They are a different sort of contract," she said. "They are student-initiated, and there are no repercussions [for a breach]," unlike the Honor Code. Feb Orientation leader Nick Campofranco '06.5 agreed: "Sam seems to think that this is something administrative, but it's a student matter. We aren't trying to ignore that drinking occurs, but we feel it's better to be sober during such a packed week."

Ultimately, Rodriguez said, "The SGA hasn't decided how to respond. However, as this set the tone for this year's Febs' introduction to Middlebury, it merits the SGA's attention and I am hoping to initiate a dialogue with the Feb leaders."

While Campofranco encourages Rodriguez's dialogue, he feels that the matter "has nothing to do with the SGA." As for the dialogue, although the SGA has not initiated any formal talks yet, discussion seems already underway.

Fatal disease heightens College's vigilance

Health center, commons offer community-wide support

Continued from page 1

Symptoms of the meningococcal infection include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, joint pain, vomiting, rash, discomfort when looking at bright lights and confusion. As many of these symptoms resemble those associated with other illnesses — such as the common cold or influenza — Peluso said, "I don't expect students to recognize if they have [a meningococcal disease]." It is only transmitted through close contact with the infected person. "He couldn't have infected a room of people as if he had influenza," Peluso said.

Following the confirmation that Fleishman's death was caused by *N. meningitidis*, Parton Health Center worked closely with Porter Hospital, the Vermont Department of Health and the commons deans — who are a part of the emergency system in cases like these — to rapidly contact people who were thought to have been in close contact with Fleishman before he died. They also alerted the College and the Middlebury community to the disease.

"The usual protocol in response to a case of meningococcal disease is to interview the patient, or the patient's family and friends if the patient is unavailable and to try to identify who else might have contracted the disease," said Cort Lohff, the state epidemiologist for Vermont. This disease can be transmitted from one person to another, although the likelihood is very low. On average we [at the Vermont Department of Health] see about five cases every year of this particular disease."

Peluso said that a single case of meningococcal disease automatically heightens vigilance, especially for people who were in close contact with the infected person. "If there was transmission [of the disease] it most likely would be recognized within three days of diagnosis. After 10 days from the time of exposure, we returned to standard vigilance. As of the sixth [of February] we really felt good — no reoccurrence was a good sign."

People with a higher chance of being infected include people who have slept in the same room as the patient, such as family members or guests, and people who have been directly exposed to the patient's saliva.

People suspected of being at high risk for infection were given antibiotics to "eradicate the nasal carriage," even those vaccinated against meningitis, said Peluso. "Vaccinated people can still be carriers," he continued. "There are 13 sero groups of *N. meningitidis* and the vaccine covers four of the most invasive."

Since the announcement was sent, there has been an increase in the number of people asking questions about the vaccine, which the Health Center can help administer to students.

Peluso advises students to be vigilant about their own health and well-being. "For college students, you should ask yourselves have you been immunized and are you taking care of yourselves," he said, adding that pulling all-nighters, drinking heavily, using drugs and over-exercising drops one's immunity and can make one's body more prone to any infections. "Does [doing all those things] mean they'll definitely get this illness?" he continued, "No. It only manifests every few years."

"People can and do get very worried about this because it can be a very serious disease, such as in this situation where it did end in death," said Lohff. "What we try to do is to educate people about this disease and how it is transmitted."

Fact sheets on meningococcal disease are available at the Health Center and students who have questions regarding the disease are encouraged to make an appointment with the Health Center or with the Center for Counseling and Human Relations to learn more.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY TRAVIS JACOBS

TUNIS, Jan. 12 — I arrived in Tunis in early January on a Fulbright Senior Specialists Program to teach American history to Master's level students at La Manouba University for four weeks. This is my first visit to North Africa, and it comes at a time of the continuing violence in postwar Iraq and a worldwide warning of caution for Americans abroad, with a specific warning for travel from Tunisia to neighboring Libya and Algeria.

Tunisia surprised many in 1990-1991 by not supporting the Allied Coalition in the Gulf War, yet it has maintained good relations with the United States. It sees itself as playing an important role in the Arab world, especially with the Arab strategy of combating terrorism.

Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Tunis in December, and the Tunisian Foreign Minister recently traveled to Washington in preparation for the forthcoming visit of Tunisian President Ben Ali. A new American Ambassador arrived two weeks ago, and there is considerable discussion of the advantages for Tunisia in Libya's decision to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

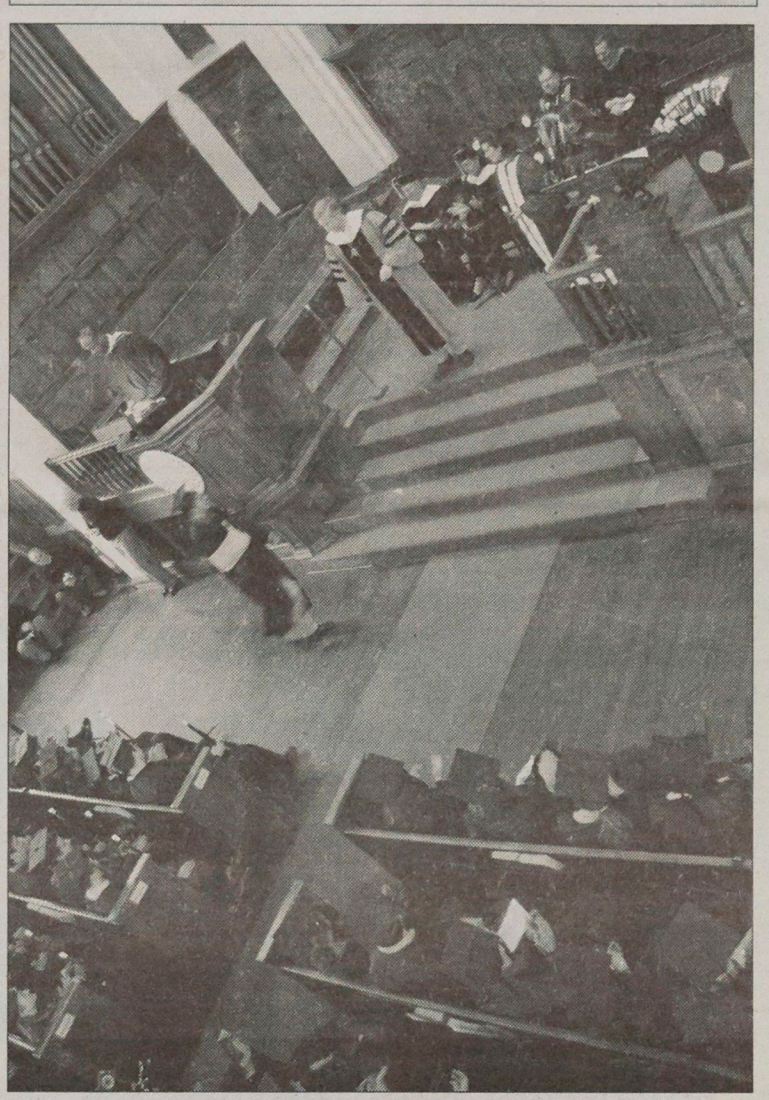
The university applied last year for a Fulbright grant for a professor to teach 20th century American history, and the American Embassy's Public Affairs Officer made the arrangements late last fall. My classes accommodate the existing course schedules of some 50 students in the American Civilization Program and 10 in the Department of English.

The education system is much more formal here than in America, and I had been told that the Tunisian students learn by rote with little to no discussion in class. My first two days saw some confusion over lecture rooms and facilities, as well as a last minute change in class time. All this prompted an informal beginning conversation with the students that, to my pleasure, has continued.

The Embassy has been a terrific support for my teaching — it provided photocopying for class and e-mail, re-formatted video cassettes I had sent, brought the equipment to the university and arranged for me to have an interesting meeting with the Ambassador to discuss my grant. (A former student from the Class of 1981 works in Political and Economic Affairs.) The Embassy has a new complex, but its location on the outskirts of Tunis makes it difficult for Tunisians, especially students, to use the active American Center. The Embassy asked me to deliver several talks, including one to graduate journalism students at another university and one to an educational group interested in exchange programs for students. So, I enjoyed an interesting, challenging, and rewarding experience.

TRAVIS JACOBS IS THE FLETCHER D. PROCTOR PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Febs celebrate mid-year graduation



PHOTOS BY VLAD LODOABA, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Roland's Place wishes you
Happy Valentine's Day!

Tomato Fennel Soup with Croutons

Smoked Maine Sea Scallops
Red Caviar Sauce
or
Duck Vol au Vent
With Clementine & Bok Choy

Beef Tenderloin
Wellington with Port Wine Sauce

Grilled Lamb Chops Casanova
with Balsamic Sauce and Two Color Asparagus

Filet of Arctic Char Pan Seared
With Oyster Ginger Sauce, Tomato Couscous

Tender Chicken Breast Roasted
with Piquell Spinach & Prosciutto

Sparkling Bubbly with Dark Chocolate

House Desserts
Chocolate Duo
Heart Surprise

Valentine Dinner & Sleigh Ride
Saturday February 14
Reservations only 5pm to 9pm

Roland's Place
5 min. North of Middlebury, 453.6309

also Sunday Valentine Brunch, 10 am to 2pm

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Four schools abroad open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middlebury is currently looking to hire an academic director, a resident director and teachers from Hangzhou for the school. The College will provide training in interacting with American students for the new faculty.

In addition to the school in China, three new sites will be added to the school in Latin America, two of which opened last year in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo, Uruguay.

Two sites in Brazil provide the first opportunity for students to study Portuguese abroad. Portuguese was taught at Middlebury for the first time in summer and fall of 2003. Previously, the only way students could study Portuguese abroad was first to be nearly fluent in Spanish, then complete an extensive six-week program to learn Portuguese while abroad.

The first Brazil school is located in the town of Niteroi — across the river from Rio de Janeiro — and the second in Belo Horizonte, which is farther inland and 250 miles north of Rio de Janeiro.

The final fall addition to the Middlebury schools abroad is a program in Guadalajara, Mexico.

These additions stipulate that in Brazil, Mexico and China, students can only get financial aid if they study at Middlebury programs and are strongly encouraged to do so, although they are still allowed to apply to other programs in those nations. As before, students can still obtain financial aid in countries where Middlebury does not have a school, as long as they are studying a language there.

As Middlebury continues to expand its schools abroad, the addition of an Arabic school may be on the horizon. The first students to take Arabic at Middlebury will study abroad next fall in various non-Middlebury programs. "Down the road, the demand may be there," Macey said. When or where such a school would open has yet to be determined.

Vlad Lodoaba

Assistant Director Stacey Thebodo and Program Assistant Nicole Canfield keep busy at the Office of Off-Campus Study.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY TOM DRESCHER

Boulder conservatives battle political discrimination

Republicans at the University of Colorado recently launched a Web site to gather complaints and examples of discrimination by faculty members against conservative students and the indoctrination of liberal opinions. The CU Boulder College Republicans intend to present their evidence concerning harassment and prejudice based on political beliefs to the university administration and the State Legislature.

CU faculty members and democrats expressed their surprise. Law school professor Barbara Bintliff said she was "concerned [the students] might end up with a black list," while Travis Leiker, president of the College Democrats, responded by saying that those who "feel there is a bias are more afraid of hearing points of view different from their own."

Meanwhile, conservative lawmakers have drafted a resolution calling for the protection of students' First Amendment rights, and Republican State Senate President John Andrews asked recently that all state universities and colleges submit their anti-discrimination policies.

Source: *The Associated Press*

Peace corps proves popular among college grads

According to the Peace Corps' 2004 list of "Top Producing Colleges and Universities," there has been a 15 percent increase in alumni volunteers among institutions that topped the list. Number one on the list of major universities for the 10th consecutive year was the University of Wisconsin at Madison, with 142 volunteers. The University of Virginia and the University of Chicago earned first-place nods in the medium and small categories, respectively.

Historically, the University of California-Berkeley has produced more alumni volunteers than any other school, totaling 3,173. Other institutions high on this all-time list include the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Washington and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Harvard, Columbia, Tulane, Syracuse, the University of Rochester, Case Western Reserve and the University of Kansas were all new additions to the list.

While it is not required, most Peace Corps volunteers in the past 43 years have been college graduates. Eighty-three percent of current volunteers have undergraduate degrees and 14 percent have graduate degrees. Volunteers must be 18 years old and United States citizens to join the Peace Corps.

Other information collected by the Peace Corps revealed that the current number of volunteers — 7,533 — is the most since 1974.

Source: Peace Corps Press Office

public safety log

JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 11, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
1/27/04	11:23 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
1/29/04	7:00 p.m.	Property	Guard Rail	R Lot	No Suspects
1/29/04	3:55 p.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	College Street	Open
1/30/04	11:47 p.m.	Vandalism	Furniture	637 College Street	Referred to Commons Dean
1/30/04	Unknown	Vandalism	Vehicle	R Lot	No Suspects
1/31/04	Unknown	Harassment	Telephone	Stewart	Open
2/1/04	2:00 a.m.	Vandalism	Tires	Unknown	Open
2/4/04	Unknown	Property	Vehicle	Athletics Complex	No Suspects
2/6/04	9:30 p.m.	Theft	Pocketbook	McCullough	No Suspects
2/6/04	9:30 p.m.	Theft	Jacket	McCullough	No Suspects
2/8/04	1:15 p.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	T Lot	Referred to Commons Dean

The Middlebury Campus

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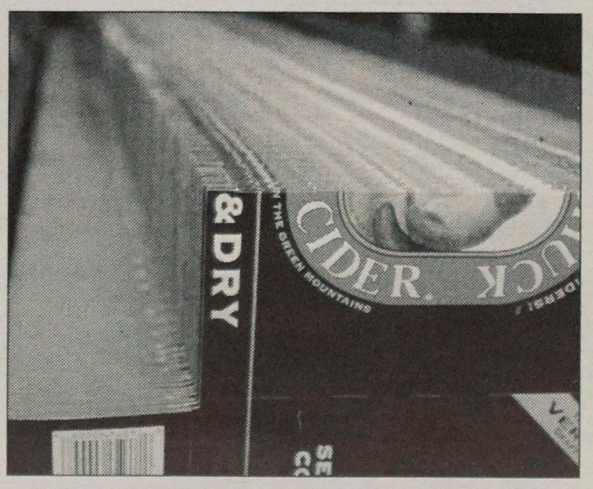


Vlad Lodoaba

Green Mountain Beverage's head brewer Greg Failing (above left) created Woodchuck Draft Cider 12 years ago in Springfield, Vt.

Tangled up in brew

Local cider brewery battles big beers in town, across country

By Claire M. L. Bourne
Managing Editor

Something is brewing in the town of Middlebury. But, as Dan Rowell will tell you, not too many locals know about it. He will also tell you that, like so many other things "Vermont," it has gained a respectable foothold in cities around the country thanks to effective grassroots marketing and word-of-mouth publicity. If you're thinking Ben & Jerry's or presidential hopeful Howard Dean, think again.

He's talking about cider — not the traditional, fresh-pressed apple beverage you can buy in gallons when the leaves start to color in the fall, but the kind of drink you'll find next to Otter Creek ales in the beer aisle at Shaw's.

Rowell is vice president of operations for Green Mountain Beverage, one of the nation's largest and most successful hard cider breweries. Located just off Exchange Street, the company produces four families of ciders on site — Woodchuck, Cider Jack, Woodpecker and Strongbow.

Green Mountain Beverage's past has been peppered with corporate buyouts, sellouts and mergers, but the company, as it exists today, is run like a small family business, boasting 40 employees and a facility that could easily double its production capacity.

The story begins 12 years ago with an entrepreneur by the name of Greg Failing. Failing developed the recipes for Woodchuck Cider and other fruit-based wines during his tenure at a small winery in Springfield, Vt. Before long, the cider hit store shelves in Cavendish and Bennington. Failing soon found distributors to market his product throughout the Northeast, and by 1996, the Woodchuck Cider plant in Cavendish had reached full capacity. If Failing wanted to expand the size of his business, he would need a larger facility.

And a larger facility is just what he got when the Stroh Brewing Company helped him open a new factory in Springfield. With more space, Woodchuck went national, selling in more than 40 states.

Two years later, the world's largest cider producer, H. P. Bulmers, bought Woodchuck and the new factory. Under the Bulmers banner, the facility added the production of Woodpecker, an Irish cider, and Strongbow, a British cider, to its arsenal. In 1999, the British-based Bulmers bought the Middlebury-based American Hard Cider Company, producers of Cider Jack. With its North American division now overseeing the production of four cider families in two different locations, Bulmers decided to consolidate and selected Middlebury as the new home for its operations.

Less than a year ago — in June 2003 — Bulmers decided to sell its North American division back to two of Woodchuck's original salespeople, Bret Williams and Paul Diphillips. And so Green Mountain Beverage was born, with Failing still at the brewing helm.

Now that the dust from the sale is settling, Rowell says the company will make a "concerted effort" to be more visible in the community. Patrons of Two Brothers' Tavern and Mr. Up's may have already seen Woodchuck Cider on those establishments' menus. And those willing to branch out from the seasonal Otter Creek special or a cheap pint of Bud Light may have even sampled it.

But Rowell wouldn't blame you if you haven't. Most Americans associate the word "cider" with fresh apple cider, not hard cider, he says. He even received a phone call from a local school asking the company to stock the cafeteria with its products. "Did you know our ciders contain five percent alcohol?" he asked. Needless to say, Green Mountain Beverage didn't get the contract.

To add to the confusion, the government lumps hard ciders in the wine category, even though they end up competing against beers on supermarket shelves. "It's part of our identity crisis," Rowell explains.

Despite current misconceptions about the drink, hard cider has been present on the American scene about as long as this country has existed. "It was the drink of our forefathers," Rowell points out. The cider category has experienced a recent surge in popularity after facing "fierce competition" from "malternative" beverages, such as Smirnoff Ice and Mike's Hard Lemonade, in the late 90s, Rowell says.

So is hard cider the new "malternative" alternative? As Woodchuck steadily grows, like Rowell predicts the brand will continue to do this year, the answer could very well be yes. Green Mountain Beverage markets most of its drinks to the 21 to 30 year-old set — "more women than men," says Rowell. Strongbow, however, targets mainly men in that age bracket, particularly in cities and regions with English heritage.

Green Mountain Beverage forecasts single-digit growth in 2004. Although the company purchases raw materials from countries as far away as South Africa and Chile, Rowell maintains that Vermont imagery, in particular the state's "well-known apple crop," plays a major role in marketing. With little money to spare on national advertising campaigns, the brewery relies on a small sales force to educate the public about "who we are, what cider is and to get them to try it."

That's the strategy. From the corner of small-town Middlebury, Rowell and company will compete against the big boys of the beer industry "one person at a time, one bar at a time."

Green Mountain Beverage produces over two million gallons of hard cider every year. Unlike most beer breweries, the company's Middlebury facility manufactures cider at a sustained level year-round, receiving a slight "bump" in the summer and fall, says Dan Rowell, vice president of operations. During a tour of the factory last week, Rowell explained how cider is made.

FERMENTATION: Yeast, sugar and nutrients are added to raw apple juice and placed in 12 1,000-gallon tanks for two weeks. During this time, the yeast eats the sugars to create alcohol. The mixture is fermented to 10 to 11 percent alcohol. Green Mountain Beverage ferments three bases — *cull* (which uses a mixture of Macintosh-type apples) *Granny Smith* and *Bittersweet*. From these three bases, the company produces its whole array of ciders. Most ciders use a mixture of bases.

FILTRATION: Following fermentation, the bases are run through a filter, a common practice in both the beer and cider industries.

BLENDING: The filtered base is then blended to five percent alcohol using water, sugar and, in some cases, flavoring (raspberry, cranberry or pear).

FILTRATION: The blended mixture is filtered again.

PACKAGING: After a second filtration, the cider is bottled, and the bottles are labeled and boxed, ready for distribution to supermarkets and liquor stores across the country. The Middlebury factory also contains a kegging operation for distribution to bars.

6
LOCAL CIDERS
Middlebury plays host to one of the finest cider breweries in the country

7
MIDD TRANSIT
Hitching a ride with the "Ben & Jerry's" of Vermont Transportation

8
THE LOCAL FLAVOR
Looking for cheap eats in Burlington? Check out Ken's Pizza on Church St.

Bill Fuller *transit*ions to new career

By Lisie Mehlman
Local News Editor

Traveling makes us all slightly anxious, but it seems to be Middlebury Transit's mission to make traveling as relaxing and luxurious a process as possible. In fact, the first time I met Bill Fuller, he asked me which movie I preferred to watch on his company's luxury van's television. Fuller has since informed me that my choice of "Clueless," is not one of the three most popular student picks, "Father of the Bride," "The Wedding Planner" and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Believe it or not, not all transportation companies offer as wide an array of movies for passenger viewing as Middlebury Transit, developed 19 months ago by Bill and his wife Sara, who is also a full-time teacher.

Fuller, 51, is a native Vermonter who grew up in West Rutland and graduated from Castleton State, where he met Sara. "I took away a degree and a wife from Castleton," he said. When asked about any crazy stories from those college days, he claims he has none. But I was not to be fooled by his dress shirt and tie, for his slightly askew smile let on that he had indeed had some wild times.

The business of providing regional transportation for Vermonters is a relatively new endeavor for Fuller, who spent 22 years "in charge of all claims and litigations" at the local Cooperative Insurance, where he had risen to the rank of vice president. After some time spent managing his own consulting company, he thought, "There's something more fun than this out there." Because he had traveled a lot while in the insurance business, he realized that "when people come into Burlington they should have a good, reliable service on which they can depend." In fact, a motto for the company is "on-time dependability." But that isn't Fuller's favorite motto. No, he prefers this one — "We are to regional transportation what Ben and Jerry's is to ice cream. Without the fat." He told me this one with a wide grin. When asked about his favorite Ben and Jerry's flavor, he said chocolate, only to quickly mock himself with a sarcastic "oh my gosh is he boring. Chunky Monkey is a close second. Definitely close."

Albert Bitici

In 2002, Bill Fuller left the insurance industry in the dust to found Middlebury Transit with his wife, Sara.

"Having spent 25 years on the service side of insurance, I developed a fairly good idea of how to relate well with other people." It is obvious that Fuller genuinely enjoys encountering new people day in and day out, and he is rumored to know everything there is to know about Middlebury and Vermont in general.

"Well… That is why I have to be careful what I say!" he explained with a chuckle.

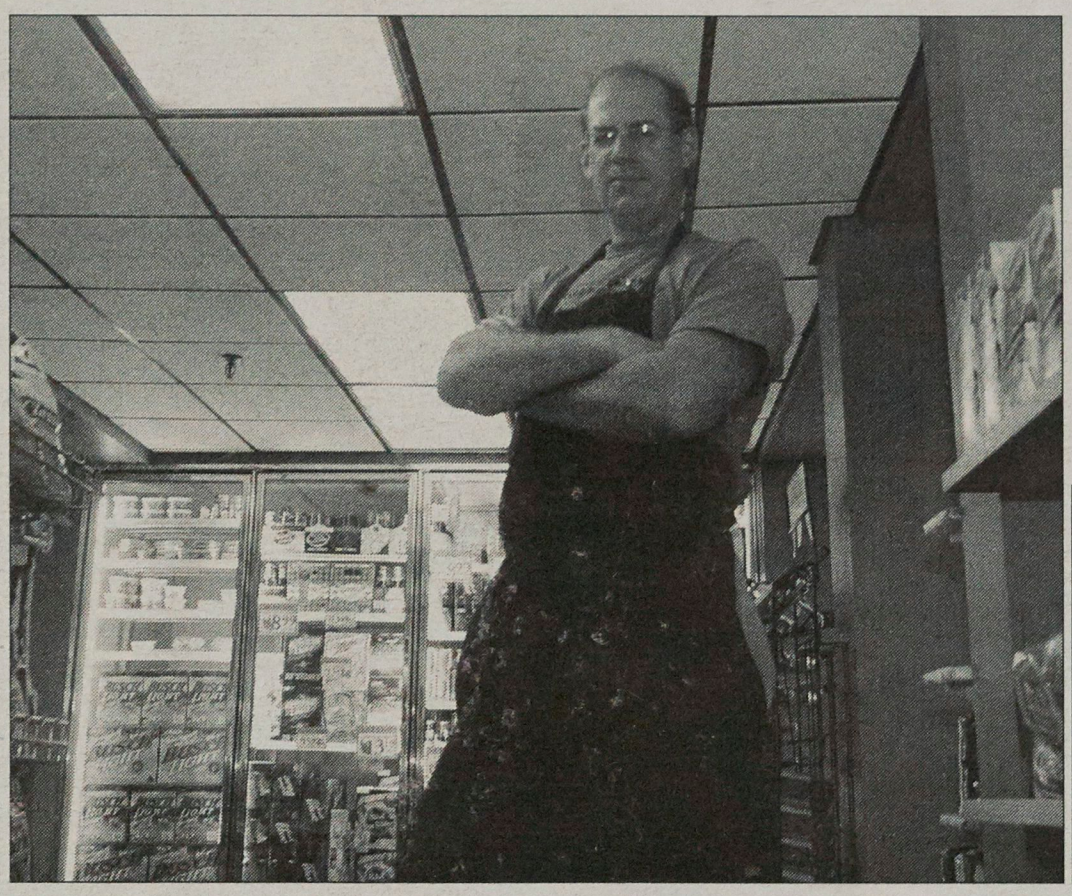
"The majority of our business is connected to [Middlebury College] in some way. From the College we transport students, guests invited to speak or perform, staff faculty and administrators." Fuller seems to appreciate the time he spends with students. "Having two college kids of my own who are now graduated [from UVM] it's just interesting to hear from the students their dreams, their desires, where they're going and what they want to do with their lives. My sense is here most of the kids are going to get there." As he is a successful businessman, Fuller also likes answering students' questions about starting, developing and maintaining businesses.

"Sara and I are so impressed with how respectful the students are. That's no kidding. We've had very few issues after driving hundreds and hundreds of students around. They are just so polite. It's wonderful, 'cause I was a college student once. Our guests from Middlebury are a lot of fun and very courteous," he said. It seems, though, that it is Middlebury Transit that is courteous, because if a student's flight is delayed, the company will track the flight and be sure to have someone waiting at the airport as soon as it arrives, no matter how late. "We do business 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Along with offering transportation to and from airports and Amtrak stations all over the east coast, Middlebury Transit provides small group excursion charters. Drivers can take students into Montreal for a night — "they can get there by nine and be home for breakfast."

The Fullers are proud of the "personal, intimate and luxurious" services Middlebury Transit provides and are hoping to move their office out of their home and into downtown Middlebury within the next six months.

NEW MAN IN CHARGE



The Blue Hen Market and Kitchen, owned by Peter Ross '83 and his wife Beth, replaced Baba's on College Street last week. With fresh paint and new wallpaper, the store has a French Country feel and will continue to offer some of Baba's more popular items in addition to more traditional American comfort foods. Look for a full breakfast complete with fresh sticky buns and, eventually, a dinner takeout menu. BELOW: The Blue Hen's logo — the blue represents Middlebury's colors and the hen signifies good luck.

Albert Bitici

THE BLUE HEN
Kitchen & Market

RURAL REALITIES

By Crystal Belle

Remember the first day you arrived at Middlebury College and searched for a radio station that played hip-hop and R&B, but to your dismay you were unable to find one that satiated your urban needs? Well have no fear, for you are not alone: the very same calamity was apparent to me from day one. There I was in my Battell broom-closet-of-a-room, searching the airwaves for some Jay-Z or Alicia Keys. However, I searched in vain, as I was only able to discover stations that seemed to breathe alternative, poppy music — what a nightmare! This could not be the place where I would spend four years of my life, I thought to myself. But, it was, and I would have to make the best of it. My vast CD collection came in handy, along with the illegal services of Kazaa and the now-defunct Napster. I was determined to make Middlebury my temporary hip-hop and R&B abode. That, I was able to do. However, I still missed listening to a really good radio station, as New York City has three very popular hip-hop stations. Hip-hop and R&B have served as food for my soul since I was 10 years old. How would Vermont ever truly quench my innate thirst for constant hip-hop, both underground and mainstream?

The day finally arrived in August 2003. I was on campus a few weeks early, and while sitting in the car, my friend began to switch stations and made an abrupt stop at one. It was music to my ears, the wonderful symphony of "Shake Ya Tailfeather" performed by P. Diddy, Murphy Lee and Nelly. Was this really happening? Could it be possible? I was shocked, confused and ecstatic all at the same time. When did this occur? Still not convinced, and sure that this was the quota hip-hop song of the day, I listened intently for the next song. Sure enough, it was Outkast with "Hey Ya." I screamed out loud, "Finally my day has arrived, and it only took three years!" I continued jamming to the station — 92.1 FM — for the rest of the drive. This was truly a miracle — at least I had the comfort of a decent radio station for my senior year.

I had to call my friends. They would be proud. So there I was, in my yet-to-be-furnished room, calling everyone I knew at home about Middlebury's new discovery — hip-hop. I could wake up and just hit the power button, just as I do at home. Of course the quality isn't quite the same, but it doesn't matter. At least I now have an option, albeit *one*. So for a few weeks, I would wake up to hear a white deejay announce, "What up dawgs, da next track is my boy Jay-Z!" It was cool, and I finally felt slightly more at home. Everyone is beginning to realize that hip-hop will soon take over the world, therefore increasing the need for more urban-like stations in very rural areas, like Middlebury for instance. Now that I have my education, friends and music all in the same place, it's time to bring out the CHAMPAGNE!

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FEATURES
ITALIAN-AMERICAN FARE

Ken's Pizza stands in the center of Burlington, a beacon of hope and deliciousness for frugal college students. Those interested in the art of menu making take note — the perfectly symmetrical menu (equal parts green, equal parts red) is the standard, but dependably satisfying, Italian-American fare. Could all the rumors of delicious food and intoxicating aromas be true? We needed to find out for ourselves.

As we entered the restaurant, we looked at the sign and read "Wait to be seated." "Okay," we cheerfully retorted. We waited for approximately 30 seconds with bated breath. And then we sat. It had the ambience of a typical Italian-American restaurant — plastic tables and Italian decorations and aromas. After we received the menus we sat in silence, for we could not speak. Our mouths were salivating beyond control. Pavlov would be proud.

There was a vast array of American and Italian selections on offer, from minestrone to clam chowder, from manicotti to the traditional B.L.T. We decided to sample the whole spectrum that the menu offered.

The chef salad was crisp and fresh, complete with a hard boiled egg. The garlic bread was crispy and flaky on the outside, yet soft and supple on the inside. It was flavorful, yet didn't leave our breaths with the power to slay 10 vampires. Buffy, if you're reading this, don't fear, you're still employed.

The B.L.T was also laudable. The bread was perfectly toasted and lettuce nicely shredded. The clam chowder was hearty, although it had a texture to it, not unlike that of sand and grit. While some may like this rustic experience, we did not. When we asked our server where these sandy clams came from, she responded with a sly, "I don't know." This was disturbing. For all we know, they weren't even clams.

After biting into the bacon cheeseburger, our taste buds joyfully awoke as if from a long slumber under the Tuscan sun. The bun was as a bun should be, and the beef patty was substantial. The bacon was savory, and the cheddar was powerful.

The noodles in the Manicotti were reminiscent of lasagna, the spinach was fresh and the melted mozzarella delighted and warmed my soul.

Our only other complaint besides the clams (or frighteningly, perhaps not clams), was the pizza. This is disappointing, because the name of the restaurant is Ken's Pizza. This is like KFC having lousy poultry selections. The pizza was soggy and moist. It lacked the crispiness that the garlic bread had so successfully achieved. Indeed, Ken ought to change the name of his dining facility to Ken's Manicotti, or perhaps, Ken's Lack of Clams.

The service was mediocre. A good time, however, was unavoidable. Dinner for three came to the college friendly price of $30, and smiles were provided for free.

If you want pizza, however, this place might not satisfy. You're better off going elsewhere. Pizza joints are never hard to find, even in Vermont. Yet, if you are in the mood for casual, inexpensive and, frankly, good Italian-American fare, Ken's Pizza is a great pizzaless choice.

Reviving Romance

A night on the town can be "just what the health center ordered" (as opposed to their normal prescription of gargling with salt), especially if you find the candle lit dinners at Proctor a little lackluster. If you and a special someone need to break out from the Middlebury bubble, a trip to Burlington is the answer. Feeling a little institutionalized ourselves, we sought a cure on Church Street.

With Gena at the wheel (not recommended), Drew as the DJ (also not recommended) and Kelsey as the in house performer (highly recommended), we were on our way. The night was tranquil yet stirring with the buzz of our "over-break" discussions. Route 7 guarantees any couple a solid block of quality time uninterrupted by the distractions of campus life. Burlington awaited, aglow with the light of love. The greens and parks of UVM became Winter Wonderlands for snow angels, snowmen and snowball fights. Looking down at our ephemeral imprints, we were filled with a hope and love for all mankind, accompanied by a new fear of frostbite from over-exposure.

The night, however, was not over and we rallied with gusto and changed into warmer wear. A casual drive along the lake, painted by a breathtaking Vermont sunset, will whet anyone's appetite. We proceeded to Church Street, the quaint strip of restaurants and shops at the heart of Burlington. One of the best nights to go would be Sunday, when parking is free.

The cobbled walkway made for a pleasant stroll, and the street musicians provided the perfect soundtrack for love, actually. All that was missing was Hugh Grant. Drew quickly stepped up, and delivered a cutting British "what the heck is he doing" accent. With Drew once more subdued, we decided it was safe to venture into public places again.

Dinner was next, followed by a nightcap at Starbucks. High on life, love and caffeine, we bid Burlington a fond farewell and headed back to Middlebury where we were reminded that love, actually, is all around us.

If you need transportation, it can be provided by Kelsey's car — Wait! Nevermind! It was towed yesterday in the wee hours of the morning outside of Battell by some unidentified security personel.

If you are angered by this, as we rightly are, and you should be, funds and suggestions on how to get the car back should be forwarded to MC Box 2021. Love is at stake here, people.

—K.V.W., G. S. & D. E.

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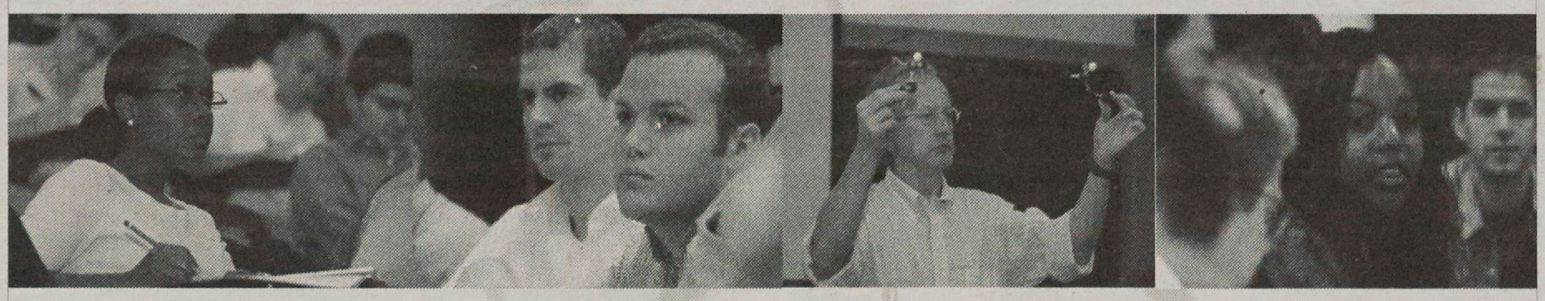

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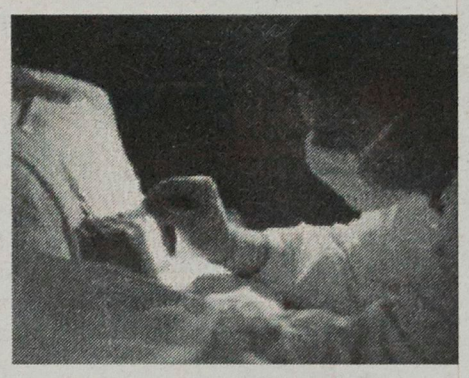

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opinions

Wow
I see that we've moved to a larger, Sunday comics-style format
At last, It really captures the full scope of the walk from Birhall to Twilight.
yeah, almost makes it feel like a real comic strip!
except for the lack of dawling skill
and the lack of humor
hey now
Well, it is funnier than "the Family Circus"
There's a compliment
Oh Shut up
Follow the dotted line to see little Billy's path as he runs away from home.

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Editorial

Sustainable Textbooks? Curb the Rising Cost

Registers were humming at the College bookstore this week. Nothing signals the beginning of the second semester like receipts flying, cash dropping and students struggling to maneuver boxes of textbooks through ice and snow.

The expense is astronomical. Yes, you signed up for it. And no, there's no way around textbooks. There are, however, ways to keep the rising costs in check.

When devising syllabi, professors should make use of electronic reserves and photocopies (double sided, please) instead of requiring students to purchase books that only contain a handful of relevant chapters or articles.

Students should also use common sense — check the syllabus before laying down the gold card. Better to read the 20 pages on reserve on the library than shell out $60 for that tome, especially if there's minimal reading assigned from it.

But that's not enough. The College should also investigate a more effective used book recovery process. By collecting used books internally and reselling them the next year, the bookstore could offer deeply discounted titles, drawing on an already existing supply within the community. That eliminates the shipping costs that up the sticker price on the books currently stocking the store's shelves.

The program needn't bypass the College bookstore. It can be integrated into its existing operations.

The Environmental Council's annual grants offer an appropriate avenue for conducting a feasibility study for a used book program. Applications are due Feb. 18, leaving ample time to draw up a proposal. A group of students — perhaps led by the SGA director of environmental affairs — should pursue a model for recycling textbooks within the College.

Such a program embodies the principle of sustainability because it confers both economic and environmental benefits.

Though the College trumpets its "Environmental Peak of Excellence," this philosophy is lost on the textbook purchasing process. It's time to encouraging a structured used book resale with an eye towards conserving both cash and paper. A grassroots effort by students is the best means of advancing the cause. An institutional commitment should follow suit.

Until then, brace for some hefty bills and reams of extra paper.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

To begin, I must say I enjoy J-term enormously and have actually taken some challenging and valuable J-term classes. However, I find that the current arrangement simply does not work. I am a second-semester senior with no degree requirements left to fulfill, and I find myself desperately searching for courses to take. Why is this? Because I believe that the information available to students about courses and professors is woefully inadequate, and I see two possible solutions. Either Middlebury upgrades its electronic resources about courses, or they give students a greater chance to see courses and professors first-hand — eliminate J-term, have longer semesters in which students take four or five courses, and institute a "shopping" period.

As to the first proposal, this needs to be done anyway. According to my very rough estimate, there are about 350 different courses offered at Middlebury. Of these, 61 have course websites maintained by 49 professors. Beyond the brief descriptions in the course catalog, I could find no useful information about the courses I was interested in. I sought advice from friends, but I only know so many people. So, what I did was go to the classes, was totally underwhelmed, and I was forced to start all over again, frantically trying to fill my schedule.

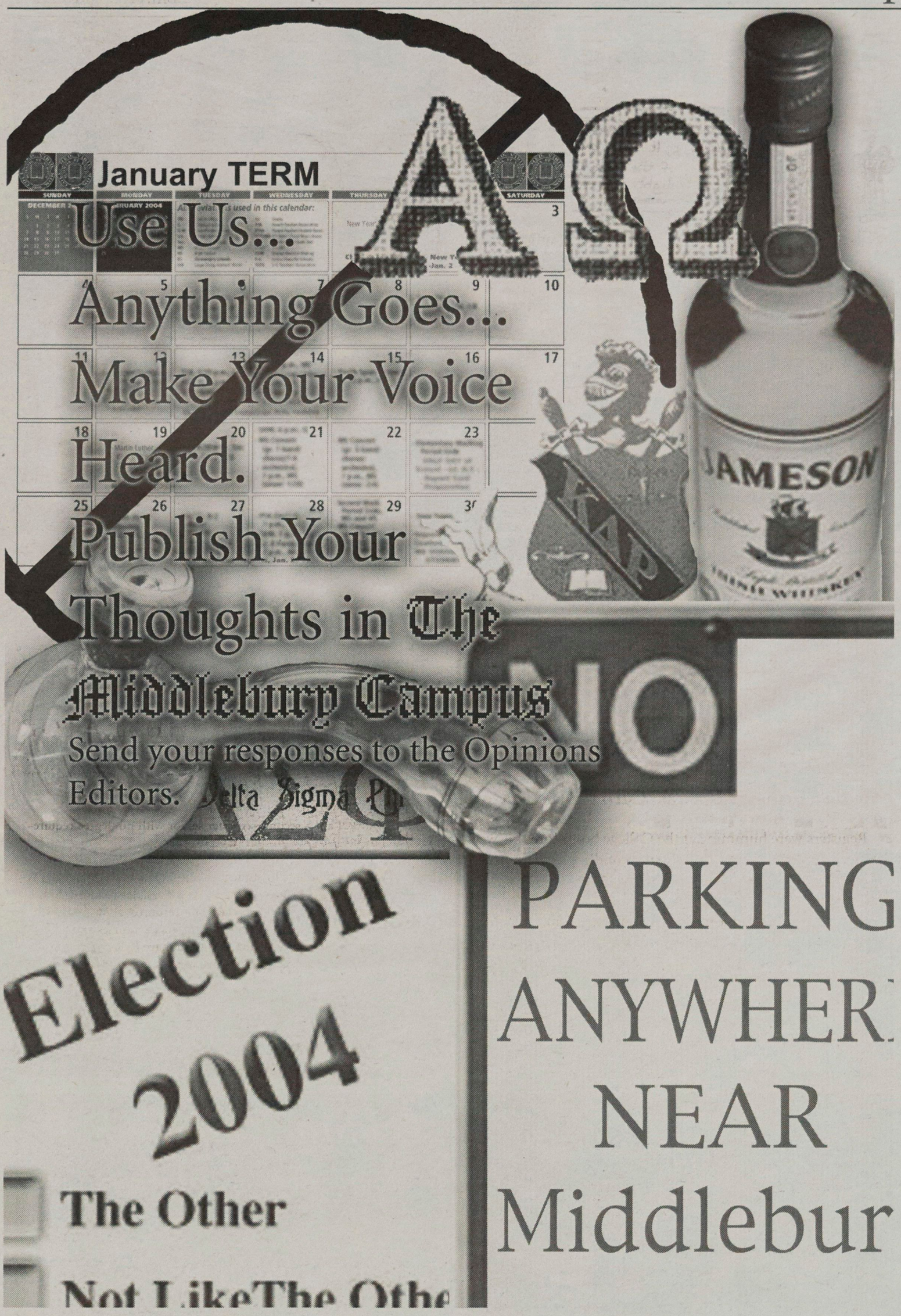
With such a short semester, every week and every class counts. Though the add period lasts two weeks, in my experience there are few classes that one could walk into after missing the first week and a half. What "shopping" does is allow students to evaluate professors and courses for themselves. This is the way colleges like Yale do it, and since we're so enamored of their commons system, why not try this?

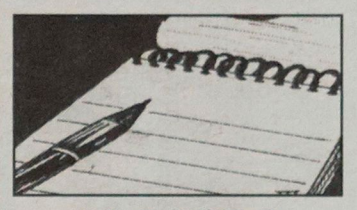
I find this rather distasteful, and many professors who have experienced this system would agree. But until professors and departments give students the information they need to make informed choices about classes, we should ensure that there is a reasonable timeframe to evaluate courses first-hand.

Sincerely,
Andrew F.X. Gustafson '04

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's Web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.





NOTES
FROM THE DESK

BY DEVIN ZATORSKI

Ninety-nine years of history has been undone. We mean that in the most un-sensational way possible. As Middlebury College's primary news source, after all, we strive to deliver even-handed coverage, and we don't want to undermine that reputation by allowing high drama to hijack our editorial column. But for the first time in decades, we're getting a facelift. That's big news.

In an age when queer eyes are styling straight guys and ABC is billing its plastic surgery fest as the "Ultimate Makeover," we decided our pages needed a new look. Last semester, this newspaper was even adding flair to uninspired wardrobes across campus through the Thrift Store Makeover feature.

It was time to turn the advice on ourselves — our pages, that is. (Editors themselves are eminently stylish. Our bylines don't do us justice.)

Today we launch a redesign that freshens our look. We allow stories room to breath, we sideline clutter and we introduce larger headlines and photos. The result is a more visual paper that's easier — more enticing even — to read.

Here's a guide:

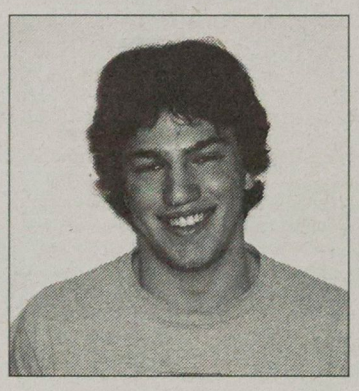
1) We herald each new section with a vertical banner. For your convenience, we also highlight key articles with teasers below the section name. Use it as a thumbnail table of contents.

2) White space. Yes, we meant it. And no, we're not low on stories. The less cluttered the page, the easier on the eye. We have your contact lens prescription at heart.

3) Online Exclusives: look for the special logo proclaiming that more photos or more information is available online at www.middleburycampus.com. In step with the print redesign, the website is also getting a new look. Check it out today.

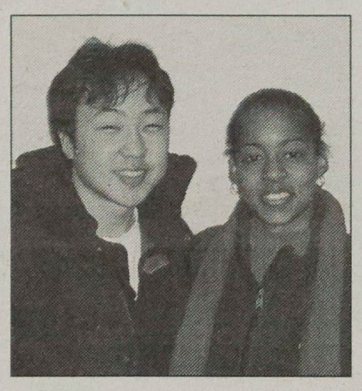
We hope you enjoy the new format. We always welcome feedback at campus@middlebury.edu. You can also call our editorial line at extension 5736. The redesign, like so much of what we do, is about our readers. Talk to us. We'd love to hear from you.

The Middlebury Campus online poll



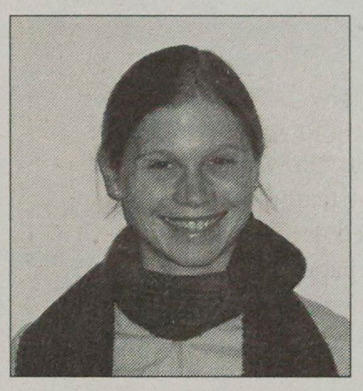
IT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA. I SUPPORT THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND IT. I SUPPORT LIVING WAGES WHICH FAIR TRADE COFFEE ADHERES TO.

—KIEREN CO '07



I DON'T KNOW. WE SHOULDN'T DRINK COFFEE. IT STUNTS YOUR GROWTH.

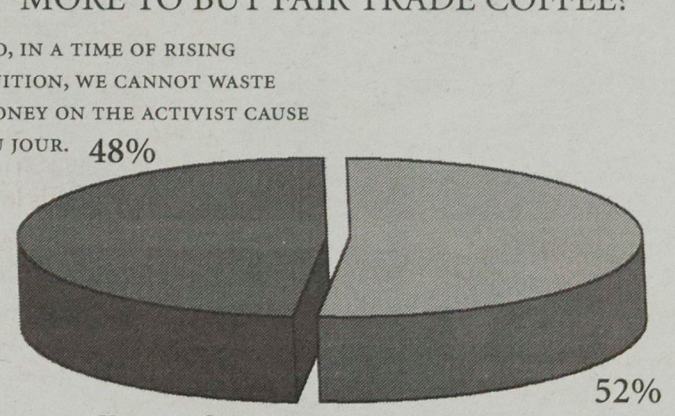
—DAVID YI '04
—JAN'L HASTINGS-ROBINSON '04



AS A COLLEGE WE NEED TO BE MORE SOCIALLY AWARE OF WHAT GOES ON. WE CAN SAY STUFF, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO.

—HOPE STEGE '04

SHOULD MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SPEND MORE TO BUY FAIR TRADE COFFEE?


No, in a time of rising tuition, we cannot waste money on the activist cause du jour.
48%
52%
Yes, the College should continue its commitment to high social and environmental standards.

Results based on 100 responses collected between Jan. 28 and Feb. 10 at www.middleburycampus.com

Next Week's Poll Question: Should classroom seating be less comfortable to avoid dozing during lectures?

features

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2004 FEB ARRIVAL
Revitalizing the winter panorama with talents and exotic experiences

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Find out how to conserve your cash and still get the books you need

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How you are cheating yourself out of the money you deserve to spend elsewhere

Fresh febs flood campus

By David Barker
Features Editor

Middlebury welcomed 117 new February students last week with a traditional mix of restaurant-quality dinners, a day at the snow bowl, a Grille talent show and a festive square dance. The packed schedule offered little downtime for the Febs, group leaders and co-chairs, and Karen Guttentag, assistant dean of student affairs who oversees the five day orientation.

Many students had just returned from overseas travel and study before coming to Middlebury after the eight month hiatus. Travis

The Regs weren't as bad as we were told they would be.

—Andrew Herzig '07.5

Baker '07.5 almost missed the first day of orientation because a play he wrote over the break opened off Broadway that night. Other student experiences over the semester ranged from delivering pizza to teaching English in India.

Stepping out of cars in front of Proctor on the first day of orientation, students were comforted by the student leaders who greeted them with signs and chants of "Welcome Febs!" "It [the welcome] really helped us get over the initial stage fright," said Andrew Herzig '07.5, whose tan from life-guarding in Australia contrasted with the mid-winter pale of other students.

After moving in to vacant rooms left typically by juniors going abroad, the Febs received an official welcome from President John McCardell and Acting Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry. McCardell encouraged students to "seize the day" and take risks like Gamaliel Painter did at the turn of the 18th century in founding Middlebury.

Once parents exited the picture, students met with two leaders in groups of eight to 10 students. Michael Ferrier '07.5 described the leaders as "being hyper organized." All leaders were sophomore Febs and were able to draw on a year's worth of experience in dispensing advice and accompanying their group to the myriad orientation activities. "It was very useful to get student secrets," said Brendan Smith '07.5, who taught snowboarding at the Snow Bowl over his semester.

Leaders also planned optional activities and ran discussions on the honor code and alcohol policy. At the Grille talent show, however, new Feb talent took over with a bagpipe and hammer dulcimer performance.

The orientation drew to a close with a sampling of Middlebury a capella groups and a final catered dinner in McCullough. As for meeting those other students who started in September? "The regs weren't as bad as we were told they would be," said Herzig.

The official Welcome: After a candlelight parade from Proctor to Mead, the Febs wait for President McCardell's convocation speech.

Passing the Tradition: A Feb starts the Painter Cane during convocation.

Not BannerWeb: Alyson Bourne '07.5 rushes to register in the Great Hall.

Febbin' it in the Fall

Sample Feb Semester Experiences

Park Ranger in Death Valley

Studied at the Chopin Piano Institute in Poland

Built Revolutionary War style barns

Volunteered as a Firefighter

Worked on John Kerry's presidential campaign

Drove the Entire U.S. Border

Learned to surf in Costa Rica

Refueling the Veggie Van

By Julia McKinnon
Staff Writer

While some February 2004 graduates start internships, real jobs or head west to ski, Dan Whitmore '04 and Luke Farrell '03.5 are diving into an epic adventure through North and South America on a bio diesel vehicle. The two Febs have committed themselves to traveling from Maine to the southern most city in the world in an environmentally sound bus. Whitmore and Farrell are not only embarking on an exciting journey, together they have converted the 1992 Bet-Cha Transit bus into an enclosed, environmentally conscious motor home.

As they prepare to be on the road for several months, they have tackled the task of making the bus into a home. Whitmore and Farrell, who have worked construction, they have been thoroughly busy painting the bus gray, ripping out the seats, redoing the floor, making bunk beds, creating a living room and installing a generator, a refrigerator and even a stereo. Their current project is the plumbing and electric work. This bus will even have hot water and a bathroom!

The engine, however, has been the greatest challenge over the last few months for Whitmore and Farrell. "Neither of us have experience with engines," said Whitmore. "We just got our hands dirty and tried it. We made mistakes, but none we couldn't fix."

The conversion challenge involved making two separate tanks for the engine: one containing diesel and the other pure vegetable oil. To start the engine, some diesel is used, but once running the motor uses vegetable oil, which Whitmore and Farrell can get for free at any restaurant stop along the road.

"The bus is actually working now, but it's cold up north so veggie oil we've collected is fairly gelatinous," said Whitmore. The pair cannot wait to get farther southwest to heat their gooey oil and to spread their message. Whitmore says that the biodiesel vehicle idea has been growing in the last few years and has the potential to create media stirs internationally.

In order to facilitate awareness for their cause the Febs have printed pamphlets in both Spanish and English explaining the benefits of biodiesel. They plan to distribute these at stops along their path and to wear T-shirts promoting their travels with "Paving the Green Road" written on the front and their Web site www.biodios.com on the back. From their promotion they hope to inspire more biodiesel use and environmental consciousness and to gain sponsors for their cause.

Tom's of Maine has already offered to sponsor the two Febs with

free biodegradable soap, toothpaste and shampoo.

The planned course began on the coast of Maine and is now underway on Route 70 through Ohio, Colorado, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. There Whitmore and Farrell plan to do maintenance and to finish painting the bus, as it is too cold in New England for a complete paint job. From California, they will venture South along the Pacific Coast through Mexico and Central America. They will then transport the bus across to Colombia and down the shoreline of South America until they arrive in Tierra del Fuego.

Though plans once they reach their destination are uncertain, Luke hopes to stay in Argentina to teach English while Dan expects to return with the bus up the Atlantic coast and back to the United States.

Whitmore and Farrell hope that their ability to get from the Northeast to the southern tip of the Americas will prove on a global scale that bio diesel both works and is economically viable.

"The bio diesel idea has yet to be embraced internationally," said Farrell.

The Middlebury graduates think that, especially in Third World countries, this method of transportation would be beneficial for the nations' economies as well as the environment. Biodiesel would help local agriculture flourish, they argue, because farmers could grow sunflowers, peanuts, coconuts or corn on vacant land down there. These plants can then be engineered to make biodiesel. Farrell also points out that this way of life would thrive, particularly in warm climates.

Whitmore, an economics major at Middlebury, is interested in the monetary ways in which biodiesel will help South American economies. Farrell, on the other hand, majored in Environmental Studies and English and stresses the importance of reducing carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere.

Farrell also plans to incorporate creative writing into the trip by keeping an online account of their environmental escapades. "I want to write journal entries to keep everyone updated," said Farrell, "especially our moms."

'Mustangs' rev educational engines

Student teaching team barrels down Experience Ave.

By Abagail Mitchell
Staff Writer

From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. John Linsky '06 was a Mustang at Middlebury Union Middle School — the Mustang team of teachers, that is. As a Teacher's Education minor, Linsky opted for a more hands-on learning experience by observing and attending to a classroom of energized and easily distractible seventh graders. Over Winter Term, Linsky and five other Middlebury students elected to take a field experience in secondary and special education course.

During the day the students observed core classes and took notes on their impressions of the learning process. After classes, they attended team meetings, in which teachers discussed the individual students and various tactics to foster learning. During lunch breaks, each member of the Winter Term class tutored a student one-on-one in need of extra help.

Kristin Thorpe '06 said, "This was the time that meant the most to me. I felt that the time spent working individually with these students was a lot more effective and memorable than the work in the whole class groups. There were stories told and friendships made there. In fact, I worked with one student so much that when I told him it was my last week he replied, 'Aw man, that means my homework won't get done again.' We both laughed about it. Being able to observe the students in two different settings was interesting as well."

When asked about the tutorials, Linsky replied, "Our goal was to create a case study on this student to better understand how accommodations and modifications are made in the classroom for these students."

Both Linsky and Thorpe came out of their experience at MUMS feeling they had gained important insight into education. John became aware of the actual heterogeneity of the classes despite America's rigorous intelligence tracking.

Thorpe was surprised at the amount of thought and attention the teachers paid to each individual student. She marveled, "They pay attention to who is dating whom, who is arguing with whom, what skills they need to develop and how much effort is put forth from day to day and week to week. They even pay attention to the parents of all the students." This fact baffles and excites Thorpe who sees it as both a testament to the strength of the system and a challenge to her as a future teacher.

As part of another Teachers Education experience, the Dewitt Clinton Internship, Hannah Epstein '05, along with four other students assisted at two schools in New York City. They spent the first two weeks at Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx and the second two weeks at the Harbor Charter Arts and Science School in upper Manhattan.

Reflecting on her experience observing and tutoring, Epstein commented, "After going to school passively for so many years it's a strange sensation to go to school so proactively. As a student, it's easy to go to school for so long and never consider all of the time and concern and thought that is put into figuring out the best way to convey and articulate all the important stuff. I definitely saw first hand what a daunting and kind of scary task that is and how nice it feels to be successful at it."

LOSER: PRETENTIOUS PROFS
For all those with an incorrigible reputation for sleazing, teasing or simply spending too much time in the library — a hoard of young, naive Febs has just arrived!
WINNERS & LOSERS
LOSER: CORPORATE CRIME
It's been unusually balmy lately. Just yesterday the mercury lept into the low teens. Soon we'll be exchanging our down parkas for polar fleece!
You know, the ones who arrive armed with sagging ivy-league tales and a ten-page syllabus. Don't fear. You have plenty of time to make your own malicious mark on the future.
WINNER: LARGER DATING POOL
The merciless money-grubbers are at it again. Be wary while buying your books. Look for deals elsewhere or go to the library. Avoid honey-tongued salesmen.
WINNER: TROPICAL TEMPS

POPROCKS

BY LANFORD BEARD

This February break after I watched the defeats washing down on Howard Dean from all sides, I questioned the will of the voters across the states, and I came to realize the fundamental issue with Dean's campaign — Dean is a triple mocha macchiato latte, but all that voters today want is a tall, cool drink of water.

While many pundits have called politics an exercise in theatrics, commerce or even warfare, sensibly they have thus far avoided its more salient, superficial yet fundamentally influential feature.

Whether we admit it or not, nowadays we want a sexy president. For decades, presidential elections have been in large part one big meat market. And since one of the hazards of the trade is rapid aging, the four-to-eight-year term usually becomes sweet relief for a public hungry for the beefcake.

If we were are to vote a dark horse like Dean into office (or proffer a nomination), we want him to be a slick, strapping young stud not a mangy old mule (or elephant).

In this regard, it is no surprise that Bill Clinton's approval ratings shot through the roof despite (or perhaps in light of) his trysts with Monica Lewinsky.

Granted, America has had its share of hideous heads of state (Taft was a troll, Lincoln was no looker and don't even get me started on Calvin Coolidge), but in these media — and star-driven times, the lowest common denominator is not money but sex appeal.

Other countries and even American citizens can look past a snake, a philanderer or a dope, but they vilify the unattractive.

For a brief case study, we can look to Richard Nixon. With the initiation of the televised presidential debate, stiff and sweaty Nixon fell into a backslide and lost his first bid for the White House. Almost a decade later, it took some polishing and the weak electability of candidates like Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern and George Wallace to put Nixon into office and keep him there — at least until he encountered scandal and vainly attempted to once again appear cool and collected under the glaring lights of television crews.

Thirty years later, treading water in the wake of the workout revolution, elective cosmetic surgery and the South Beach diet, we in America the Beautiful have fully embraced our own obsession with aesthetic perfection and we pick our pres accordingly.

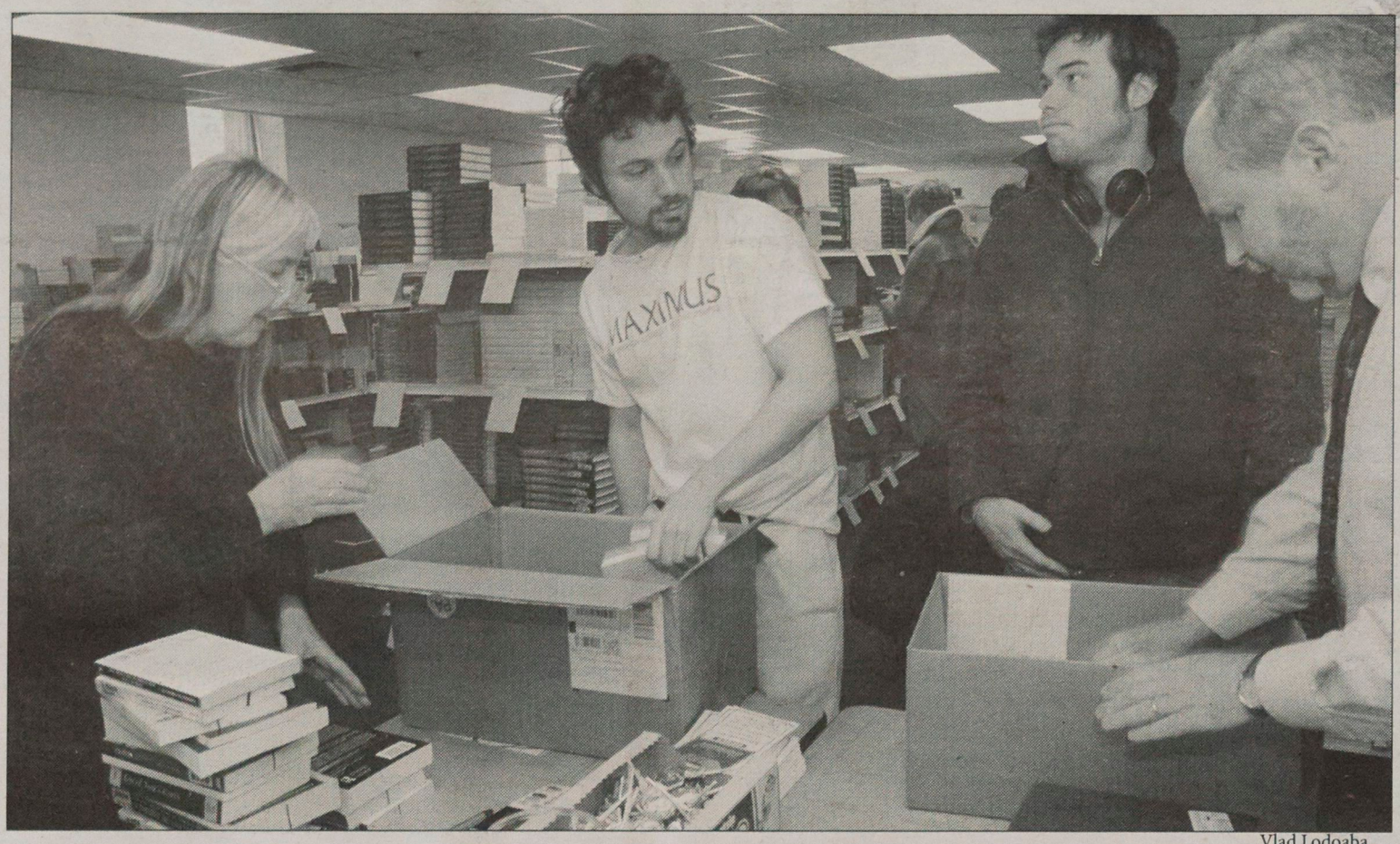
In this regard, it might seem like John Edwards is the most titillating option to take the seat at America's 44th top dog, but in this race as in 1960, that old Kennedy-esque charm has found an emblem in the experienced, charming (and apparently Botoxed) John Kerry.

In the end, the road to November is undoubtedly going to get ugly. There will be mudslinging, there will be accusations, and there will be more Al Sharpton, but we can rest assured that in less than nine months the president will be pretty.

Going broke for books

What's behind the $300 per student average for books? The Campus investigates.

By Aglaya Glebova
Assistant Features Editor



Vlad Lodoaba

Taking part in the money-draining ritual of book buying, students unload at the cash register. Social science books boasted the highest price tags.

"It's just another manic Monday" would have been the perfect soundtrack for the hectic scene that unraveled outside the textbook room on the first day of classes. The line of impatient students stretched almost all the way back to the college bookstore. "Is this line moving?" someone groaned loudly.

As the line progressed, other students struggled to balance cardboard boxes brimming with books. Some were visibly unsettled. Others were simply dispirited. And yet others seemed to examine their receipts with disbelief. "This is the best part," Elissa Denton '06 said, savoring a complimentary lollipop from the checkout.

"I drop $400 every semester," Denton continued. "And [now] I'm off to spend some more money at the other bookstore." Adam Swick '06 echoed the disgruntlement, saying "It is more money than I want to spend when I can go to the library and get them [textbooks] for free."

Some students still managed to see the silver lining in the textbooks' costliness. "I only got 3 [books] and it is already $527," said Khristoph Becker '06, "but it is insignificant compared to tuition, so I get new books. It would be nice to have a library when I'm older."

Others looked for a way to reduce the exorbitant figures on their receipts. Denton plans on buying her books online for the first time. When asked why, she answered, "because I'm poor." "The price of used books in the bookstore is equal to the price of new books on Amazon.com," said Lily Balsen '06.

Most students, however, appeared reluctant to order books over the Internet. Respondents to a *Middlebury Campus* survey cited shipping costs, time and laziness as reasons for sticking to the convenience of the bookstore.

Shipping costs are part of the reason textbooks are so expensive, Keith T. Conkin, book department manager and self-proclaimed Middlebury Book Hound, said. Shipping for most textbooks ranges from $4.00 to $5.00, and books that do not sell have to be shipped back to the publisher at the College's expense. Coursepacks are the single biggest financial drain. Conkin would love professors to use E-reserve instead to eliminate the four boxes of unsold coursepacks that sit in the bookstore's warehouse from Winter Term.

According to Conkin, books in foreign languages ordered from abroad are some of the biggest money-losers for students and the College alike, since they are not returnable. Due to this, Summer Language School textbooks have higher mark-ups than regular textbooks.

Many other expenses figure into the high price of textbooks. For one month during the summer, Middlebury hires one person to fix and repair used books, gluing torn pages and binding the book backs.

Conkin said that the biggest hindrance to reducing book costs is the lack of a deadline for professors to submit book requests. "This not only makes it difficult for the College to order and ship textbooks on time, but also prevents it from paying students the maximum possible price for the books they sell back," he said. According to Conkin, if the professor requests a textbook in advance for the following semester, the bookstore will buy used books at 50 percent of the cover price. Otherwise, the College will only reimburse the market price, which is usually 10-15 percent.

Conkin said the best way to reduce the hefty price tags would be to institute a textbook request deadline for the faculty. Installing copy machines, which would only require students to pay for the price of paper, would be highly useful for copying parts of textbooks that do not need to be read in their entirety. "10 cents a copy is B.S.," Conkin said.

Conkin also advised students to "look at the syllabus before buying the books," since many of them are general reference books, or only have a few chapters that are required reading.

The College bookstore, Conkin said, has very liberal return policies for textbooks. Many other bookstores, such as the now defunct Dartmouth Co-op, only allowed for same-week returns, as opposed to Middlebury's two-week refund period.

However the College may have to shorten the return period due to the elimination of drop/add cards. "We can't be a lending library," Conkin said.

In general, new textbooks have a 20 percent mark-up, while used books cap at 25 percent. Due to shipping costs and other concerns, the bookstore "barely breaks even," Conkin said. All profits are put towards the College's General Fund and help dampen future tuition increases. "We're a service to the community," he continued.

Middlebury's size is partly to blame for the high textbook costs, since the College does not have much bargaining power with major publishers and cannot institute a entirely internalized buy-back system.

Students, however, do not have much sympathy for the College's limitations. "Put the price of books in tuition. If I pay $40,000 a year to go here, it should be there," said Coleman Hutzler '06.

cost-cutting suggestions

for the sga

Professor Deadline

• Enact a deadline for professors to submit book requests for future classes. Students get up to 50 percent of their money back at the end of the semester buy-back if the bookstore knows ahead of time that it will need the books.

Make Photocopying Cheap

• Students will be more inclined to copy library items if they don't have to tap life savings for the photo copier. A photo-copy room should be set aside for reserve materials.

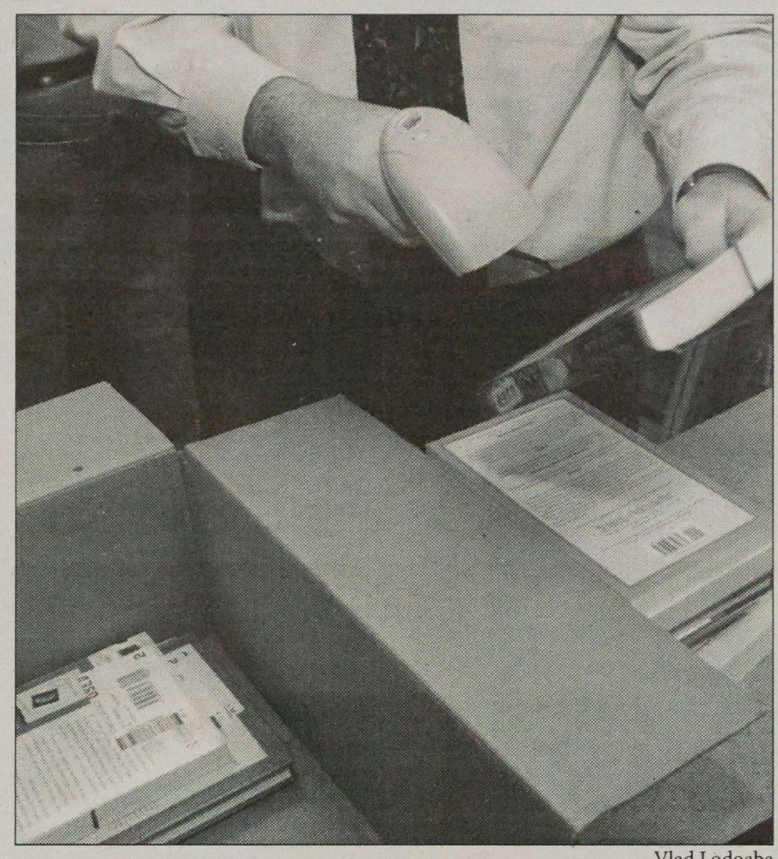
for students

Use Common Sense

• Look at the course syllabus to see how much you will be reading from each book. If you're already a good writer, don't buy three handbooks on crafting the perfect essay.

for professors

• Coursepacks are costly for students and the bookstore. Use E-reserve.

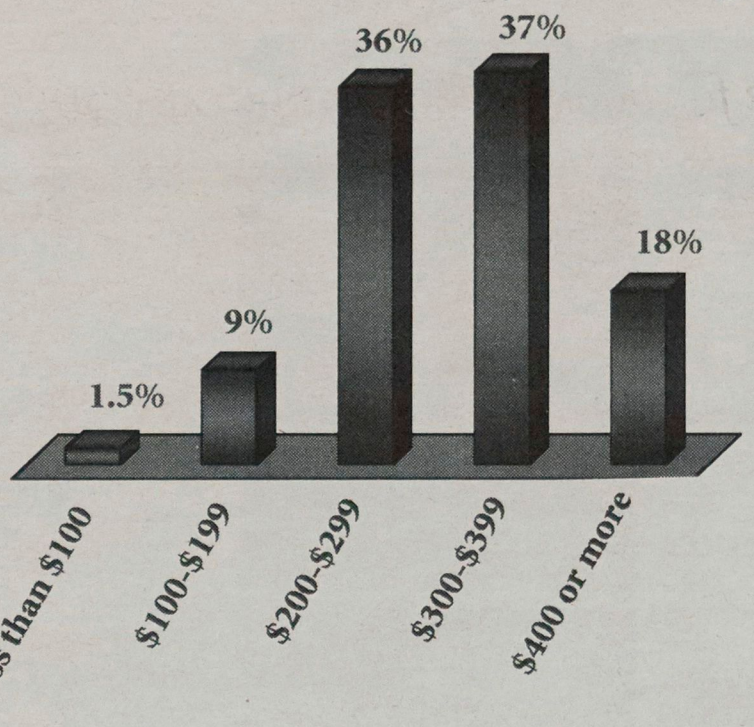


Vlad Lodoaba

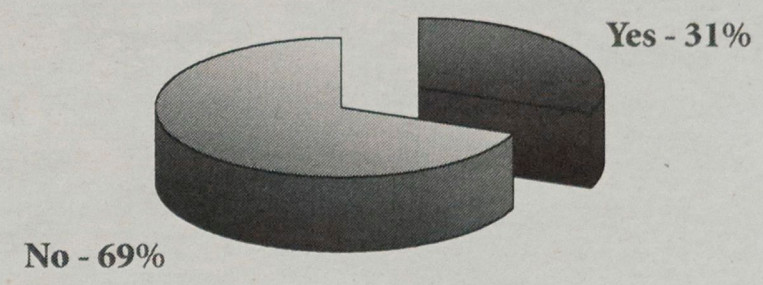
A bookstore worker plows through a stack of books with the scanner.

Middlebury Campus Survey

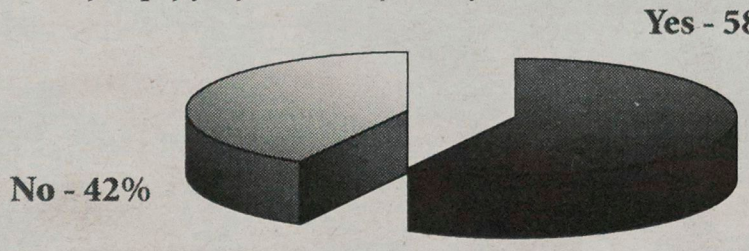
How much do you spend on books?



Did you buy all or any of your textbooks online?



Did you pay for your books yourself?



Which majors pay the most?

1. **International Politics and Economics - $399**
2. **Political Science - $350**
3. **Economics - $322**
4. **Neuroscience - $314**
5. **Art History - $297**
6. **English - $281**
7. **Environmental Studies - $271**

Average Amount Spent on Books = $296

Results compiled from a survey of 67 Middlbeury students on Feb. 19. Major averages calculated with minimum of four respondents.

How much can you save online?

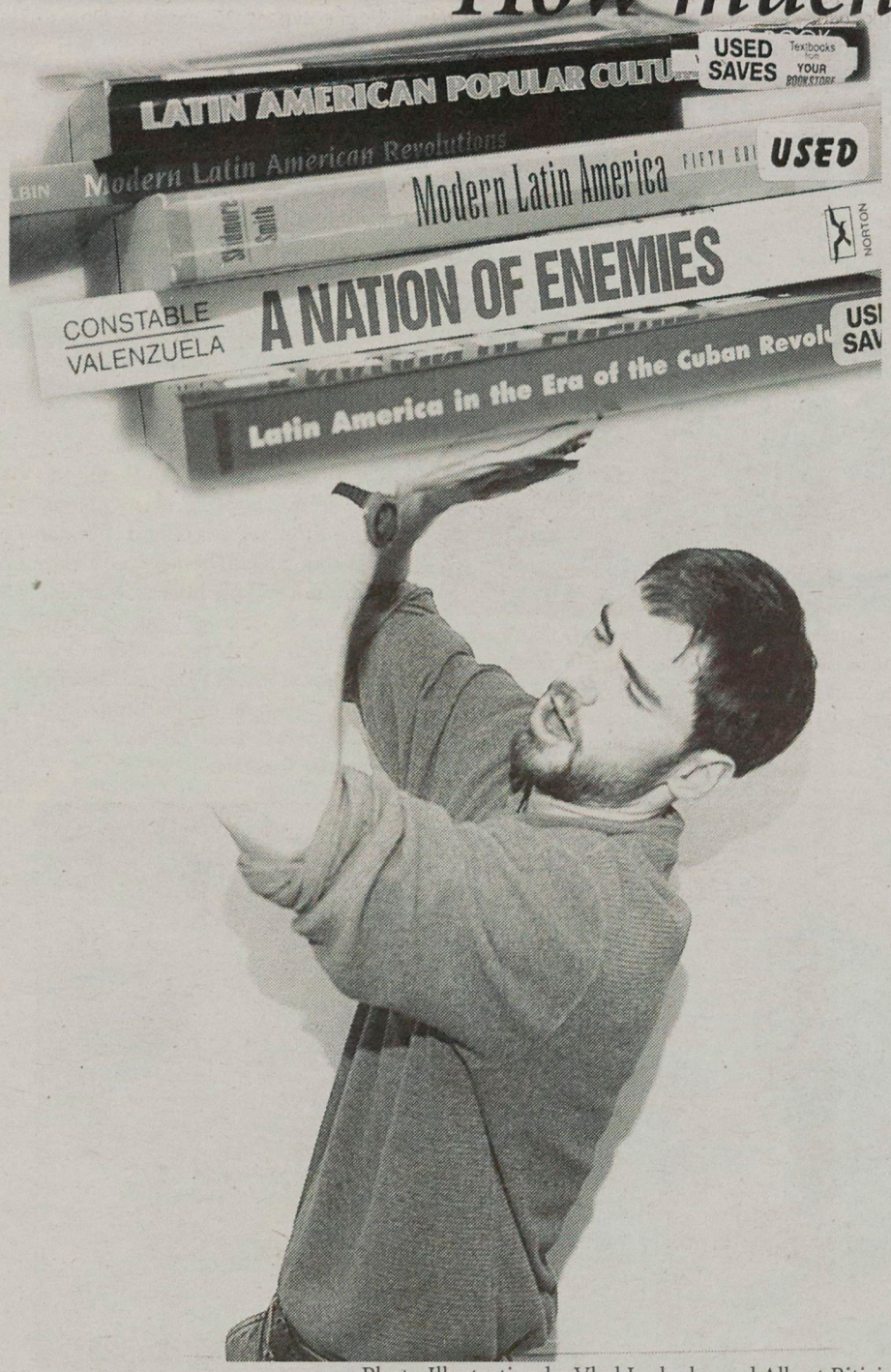


Photo Illustration by Vlad Lodoaba and Albert Bitici
Featuring Jon Duckworth '04

After hearing of numerous online sites offering textbooks at reduced prices, The Middlebury Campus *decided to find out just how much money could be saved over the College Bookstore's prices.*

Course: Modern Latin America

Book:	*College Bookstore*	*Textbooks.com*	*Amazon.com*
Beezley/ "Latin American Popular Culture"	**$16.50**	**$21.95**	**$11.50**
Brenner/ "The Wind that Swept Mexico"	**$23.95**	**$29.95**	**$14.40**
Burns/ "Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History"	**$48.40**	**$49.00**	**$20.00**
Hanke/ "People and Issues in Latin American History"	**$24.95**	**$19.95**	**$4.90**
MacLachlan/ "A History of Modern Brazil"	**$15.00**	**$19.95**	**$12.95**
Perez-Stable/ "The Cuban Revolution"	**$25.95**	**$24.95**	**$13.50**
Total:	**$154.75**	**$165.75**	**$77.25**

Used book prices are indicated by gray text.

Conclusion: For new books, the College Bookstore is very competitive with its online rivals. Most new books at Textbooks.com were priced similarly to the College Bookstore's prices. With no shipping charges and less inconvenience, the College Bookstore may be the place to go for new books. The real price difference comes with used books as Amazon.com offered greater availability of used books and lower prices for a total bill less than half the Bookstore's. Though requiring more effort and some shipping charges, this is the way to go for the student looking to spend as little as possible.

Middlebury Campus Investigation

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Museum triumphs with *trompe l'oeil* trickery

By Joyce Man
Staff Writer

In 400 B.C. in Rome, Pliny the Elder astonished his rival painter Zeuxis with a canvas covered in cloth, the drapery of which turned out to be part of the painting itself. Zeuxis may well have been the first recorded practitioner of *trompe l'oeil* painting, in which objects and other subject matter are rendered with such precision as to fool the viewer's eye. Over a thousand years later, at the dawn of the Renaissance, European painters pursued a similar artistic line, fascinating audiences with their painstakingly rendered still-lifes.

This month at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, we are treated to a similar experience at the "Feast the Eye, Fool the Eye" collection of still-lifes and *trompe l'oeil* paintings borrowed from the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Though the collection by no means encompasses the two vast genres, we are given an enticing taste of illusionism and scientific artistry.

The great thing about *trompe l'oeils*, literally "fool the eye" paintings, is their capacity for prompting instant reaction before any meaning is even associated with the pieces. The objects are rendered in such realistic detail as to trick the observer's eye into believing in their three-dimensional verity.

For anyone who has been confused by the collection of everyday objects posing as art in our modern museums, here is an example of exactly the reverse — art posing as reality. One visitor to the museum stood agape at De Scott Evans' "Homage to a Parrot" for a full two minutes before stuttering, "But it looks so real…"

Indeed, the collection demonstrated the visual realism which distinguishes *trompe l'oeil*. In John Peto's "The Artist's Signboard," the envelope's creases and the panel's wooden grains are exquisitely detailed.

In "Composition with Engraving of Erasmus of Rotterdam," Evert Collier conveys the minutiae, down to the imprint on each wax stamp and the dog-eared corner of the hanging paper poster.

Beyond that, these paintings from the Oscar and Maria Salzer collection reveal how the *trompeur* transfers his penchant for the disturbingly lifelike onto the canvas.

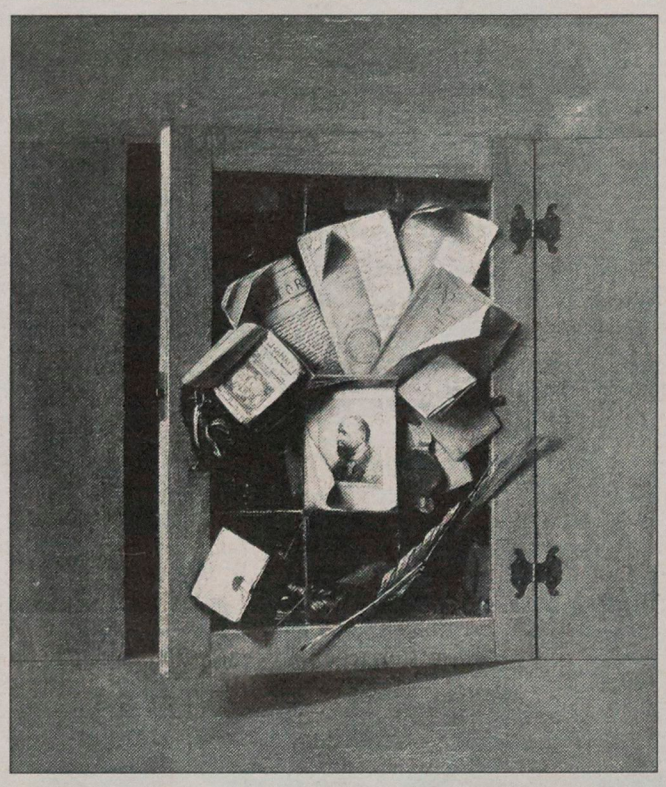
All the paintings in this collection are painted in oil, a medium which affords the greatest control as a result of its lengthy drying time.

Works such as Barber's "Corner-Cabinet" and Edward Collier's "Wall Arrangement" demonstrate the movement's concern with common everyday objects and wall-scapes, while others like "Homage to a Parrot" show its fascination with game trophies and animals frozen in motion.

Just as the doubled-sided title of the exhibition suggests, the collection impressively combines the illusions of the *trompe l'oeil* paintings with an array of still-lifes.

This collection brings together what initially appear to be mundane reflections of reality, boiled down to a kind of dull artistic science, with illusionary pieces that are more immediately provocative.

Led by the desire to decrypt the *trompe l'oeil* paintings, viewers are given a chance for once to question the symbolism behind static flower arrangements and fruit bowls. The sexual and existential connotations in these still-life paintings are thus revealed.



From Top: Barber's "Corner Cabinet" and Edward Collier's "Wall Arrangement." Richard LaBarre Goodwin's "Strawberries." *Below:* Professor of Art Jim Butler stands next to De Scott Evans' "Hommage to a Parrot."

Above: Courtesy Photos / Below: Schuyler Van Horn

The collection's cohesion is excellent not only because it combines separate elements, but also because the pieces respond to each other.

Victor Dubreuil's "Two Dollar Bill" and John Peto's "Five Dollar Bill," strikingly similar especially in composition, reveal the *trompeur's* attempt not only to imitate reality but to imitate imitations of reality.

Such a harrowing task was frequently undertaken by *trompe l'oeil* artists and illusionists alike, and it is no surprise that still-life paintings frequently depict similar arrangements of fruits and flowers.

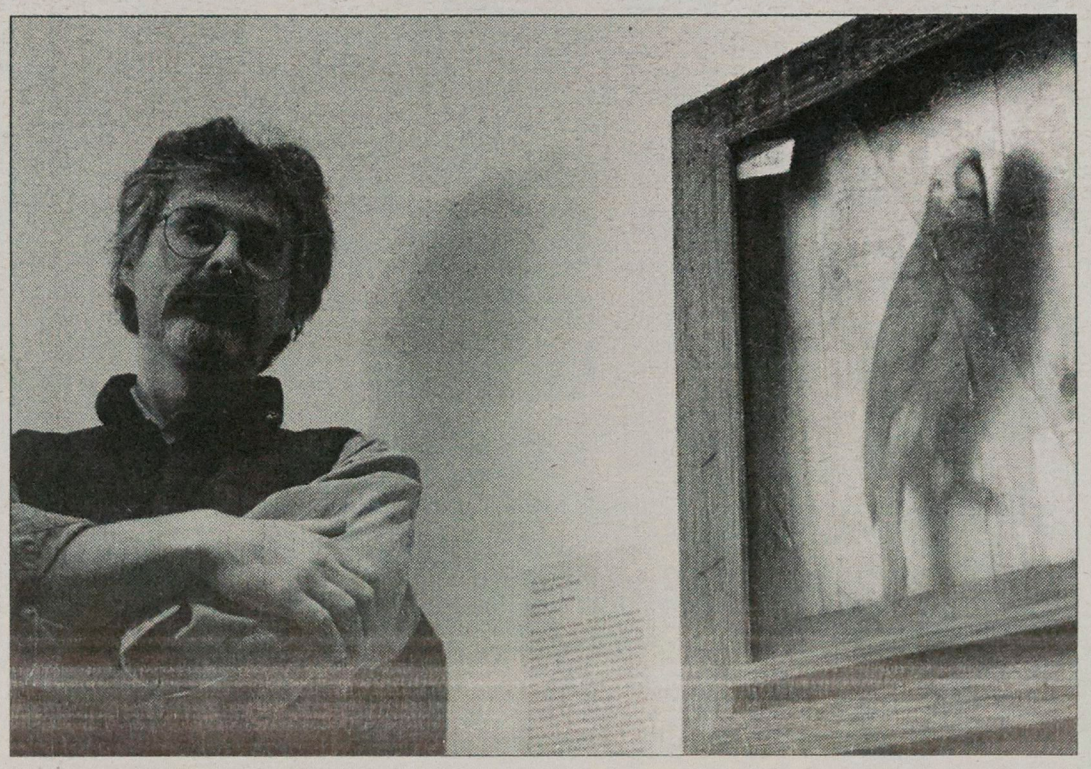
Looking at François Bonvin's "Bowl with Fruit and Flowers" and Andrew Way's "Red Cherries, Apricots, and Green Vase," one begins to understand how, in spite of realism's awesome true-to-life qualities, photo-freezes of objects can prove dull.

The great thing about *trompe l'oeils*, literally "fool the eye" paintings, is their capacity to prompt instant reaction.

What is sadly missing from this grouping of *trompe l'oeils* is the work of William Harnett and John Harbele, two masters of the genre, known for their murals of disappearing walls and linear-perspective columned hallways.

The collection would have been more representative of the still-life genre if it contained paintings depicting more common subject matter, as, for example, skulls and clocks, which 16th century painters like Jacques de Gheyn used to symbolize life's transience.

Admittedly, it would have been difficult and expensive to install the large murals so spectacularly characteristic of the *trompeurs*, and although the collection could have focused more on common still life objects, examples like Edwin Schenck's "Time vs. Time" and the skull in "Memento Mori – Varitas" do some justice to the exhibition's caption. In spite of its limitations, "Feast the Eye, Fool the Eye" was a spectacular first taste.



Every picture exhibition captivates

By Chris Grosso
Arts Editor

Vibrant, narrative family portraits. Colorful, anecdotal quilts. Delicately sketched Indian genre miniatures. An assortment of children's books. A patterned rug and plush, soft pillows complemented by carved wooden benches. These objects might call to mind the children's section of Barnes & Nobles.

Try again. This is actually a description of the gallery for the "Every Picture Tells A Story" exhibition, which opened Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Middlebury College Museum of Art.

The works on show have been chosen for their ability to engage viewers in the process of learning to how to look at art. Faith Ringgold's famed story quilts, Carmen Lomas Garzas's paintings of family traditions, William H. Johnson's historic family portraits and a handful of 18th-century Indian miniatures are on display.

The pieces were discretely chosen. They present recognizable people, activities, settings and emotions. Most notably, as the title of the exhibition suggests, the works are anecdotal and represent different cultures and time periods. Spectators can easily interpret stories from almost all the artwork.

Curator of Education Sandra Olivo organized the exhibition as part of the Museum's Education Program. Offered in conjunction with MiddArts and the Winter Term course "Children and the Arts," "Every Picture Tells A Story" features narrative works of art that have been used to illustrate children's storybooks and epic adventures.

The works on show have been chosen for their ability to engage viewers in the process of learning to how to look art.

MiddArts is an arts education partnership between the College and the local school district, the Addison Central Supervisory Union. The venture seeks to integrate art into classroom studies via Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS).

Olivo explains, "An open-ended approach to discussing and interacting with works of art helps children understand that art objects can tell stories. By viewing narrative images, young viewers will be able to find meaning in increasingly complicated works of art." The J-term course places pre-service teachers under the tutelage of mentoring teachers in the elementary schools in order to experience and learn how to use the arts in their teaching.

Two of the artists represented are central to the objective of learning how to view art. Faith Ringgold is one of them. Born in Harlem, N.Y. at the height of the Harlem Renaissance, Ringgold established herself as an artist in the mid-1960s with political-focused work.

Later she stitched story quilts. On display at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, "The French Collection Part I: #2, Wedding on the Seine, 1991" is part of a series of 12 narrative quilts.

The quilt presents the story of the fictional artist Willia Marie Simone's marriage to a Frenchman named Pierre. In the image, Simone appears to be fleeing the ceremony and throwing her bouquet into the Seine River. Simone is running away from Pierre because she believes her elopement with him will interfere with her dream of becoming an artist.

The quilt is lively in color and composition and is framed by a decorative border. The words that border the edges of the quilt tell the life-story of the woman. The tale provokes thought about the issues of gender and race.

The three portraits by William H. Johnson exemplify the purpose of "Every Picture Tells A Story." They are representative of a rich tradition in African-American art.

A focal point of the exhibition is Johnson's unassuming painting of 1944 entitled "Mom and Dad." The artist's interpretation of his parents shows his mother with a portrait of his father on the back wall. Mom Alice is shown seated in a rocking chair.

Her late husband Henry Johnson is represented as a yellow-skinned man in a painting. Technically the work is simplistic and flat — Johnson piled up forms to erase depth. The palette is subdued and warm.

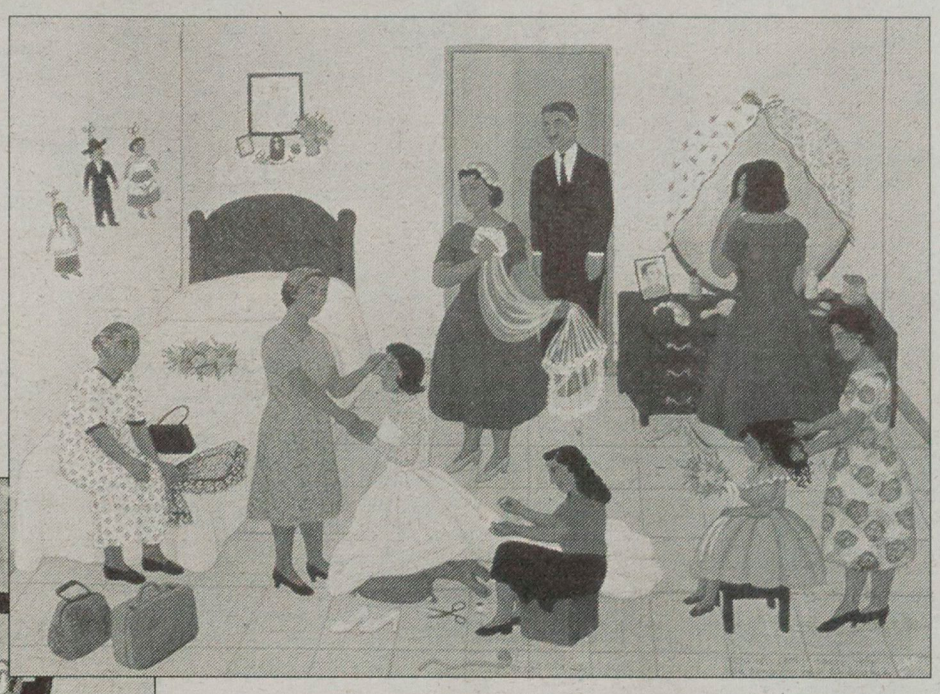
Despite the painting's apparent simplicity, the work is complex in theme. The ambiguity surrounding the father's ethnicity and race reflected the importance of Johnson's mixed heritage to his identity as both a black man and an artist in the 30s and 40s.

A unique part of "Every Picture Tells A Story" is the inviting and comfortable storytelling space, composed of a rug, pillows and benches. The arrangement perfectly complements the purpose of the show — to teach people how to view art. The welcoming space is suited for reading the illustrated storybooks, viewing a few of the pieces and engaging in discussion.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, a traditional Indian storyteller will use the storytelling space to present a family program titled, "Tales from India."

While the exhibition is targeted at a younger audience, viewers of all ages should take a trip to visit this intimate collection of pictures. It is on display until April 18.

The exhibition strives and succeeds in fostering cultural awareness and inciting a creative and an enriching response among its viewers. Other exhibits would do well to strive for the alluring and fascinating atmosphere that "Every Picture Tells A Story" yields.



Courtesy Photos

Carmon Lomas Garza's "The Blessings on Wedding Day" is on loan from Smith College's Museum of Art.

William H. Johnson's "Little Girl In Orange" is borrowed from the collection at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY ERIKA MERCER

THE ARTIST | THE STROKES
THE ALBUM | "ROOM ON FIRE"
RELEASE DATE | OCTOBER 28, 2003

FEATURED ON WRMC'S "ALBUM OF THE WEEK" THIS SUNDAY AT 9 P.M.

Before The Strokes' first album, "Is This It," debuted in 2001, they were scraping dirty pennies off Greenwich Village sidewalks to make monthly rent. Caked with dirt, those pennies not only financed their first release but also endowed it with the raw, grimy, New York City flavor that sizzled so seductively on critics' palates. But now, having been hailed everything from the "saviors of rock" to the "best young band in the world," they've polished their pennies, paid the rent, and put out a sophomore album, "Room on Fire," which hit shelves Oct. 9, 2003. The problem, though, is that after two years of touring and national hype, the music (along with the pennies) has become shiny and polished. Usually, of course, polished means better, but in The Strokes' case, minor blemishes and a little grunge were a lot more desirable.

Not to say that "Room on Fire" isn't worth a listen. In fact, if you were infected by the catchy beats of "Is This It," you'll almost definitely fall prey to the songs on "Room on Fire." This is largely because the new album sounds remarkably like the old album — you might wonder whether The Strokes didn't use the same recipe and just add nuts. In some ways, this was a brave move on The Strokes' part. To be coined the next Christ and then take your sweet time saving the rock world (say, for instance, by performing the same miracle over instead of a new one) takes guts and a strong belief in timing. It also forces listeners to realize that evolution isn't necessary to produce a good album. It's okay that The Strokes have stagnated a bit. At least they've preserved the characteristic Strokes sound — half-post punk, half rock, with a dash of new wave — that made the first album so likeable. Sure, "Room on Fire" might not be as exciting as "Is This It," but then again, first times are always the most exciting. Second times, well, they're just real good.

In other ways, though, "Room on Fire" was a cop-out. The Strokes had the rock world wide-eyed, waiting for the next miracle, but rather than mess anything up, they opted to perform the same trick a second time. And now we're not so impressed anymore, now we're not watching. Besides, the small mistakes and charming sense of inexperience that made the trick so impressive the first time has been replaced by smooth, flawless savvy. The music is cleaner and tighter, but the organic quality is lost. Unlike "Is This It," "Room on Fire" isn't taking a chance. It isn't questioning itself or challenging you to like it. It just assumes (rightly, of course) that you will.

This said, there are several exceptions. The album's sixth song, "Between Love & Hate," proves much of what I've just said wrong by toying with playful new beats and bringing the guitar (which usually remains beneath several layers of music) to the forefront. "Under Control," the album's eighth song, shows that The Strokes can also slow things down and produce a ballad that's well worth our time. Let's just hope that the next album builds on these developments. Let's hope The Strokes can still take a chance and surprise us.

Student musicians end studies on high note

By Chris Grosso
Arts Editor

From Beethoven to bluegrass, senior music majors took to the stage for their MU-704 projects in January. Serving as a culmination of their studies at Middlebury College and the commencement of future endeavors, the performances were a testament to artistic facilities, diligence and creativity. The shows were all of a first-class caliber. Each student brought his or her own spirit to the music and to the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. For 30 to 40 minutes each, they captured the full attention of intimate and supportive audiences.

The Concert Hall's January program featured Meredith Steele '03.5, Daniel Koppel '04, Sarah Pieplow '04, Erwin Konesni '04 and Zach Jensen '03.5.

For 30 to 40 minutes each, they captured the full attention of intimate and supportive audiences.

In her last performance as a student, Steele's piano and vocal recital entitled "The Sounds of My Stories" premiered on Wednesday, Jan. 21. In this performance, Steele explored the relationship between music and English. She shared creative nonfiction short stories and corresponding piano compositions.

Daniel Koppel '04 shared his appreciation for Bach, Chopin, Debussy and Beethoven in his piano recital on Friday, Jan. 23.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Sarah Pieplow '04 played her Chamber Composition.

Erwin Konesni '04 crafted an evening of bluegrass music. He performed and presented a research project on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

In his piano recital on Thursday, Jan. 29, Zach Jensen '03.5 engaged his listeners with Robert Schumann's "Kinderscenen, Op. 15" and Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C# Minor Op. 3, No. 2." He noted that the latter piece almost drove its composer to insanity.

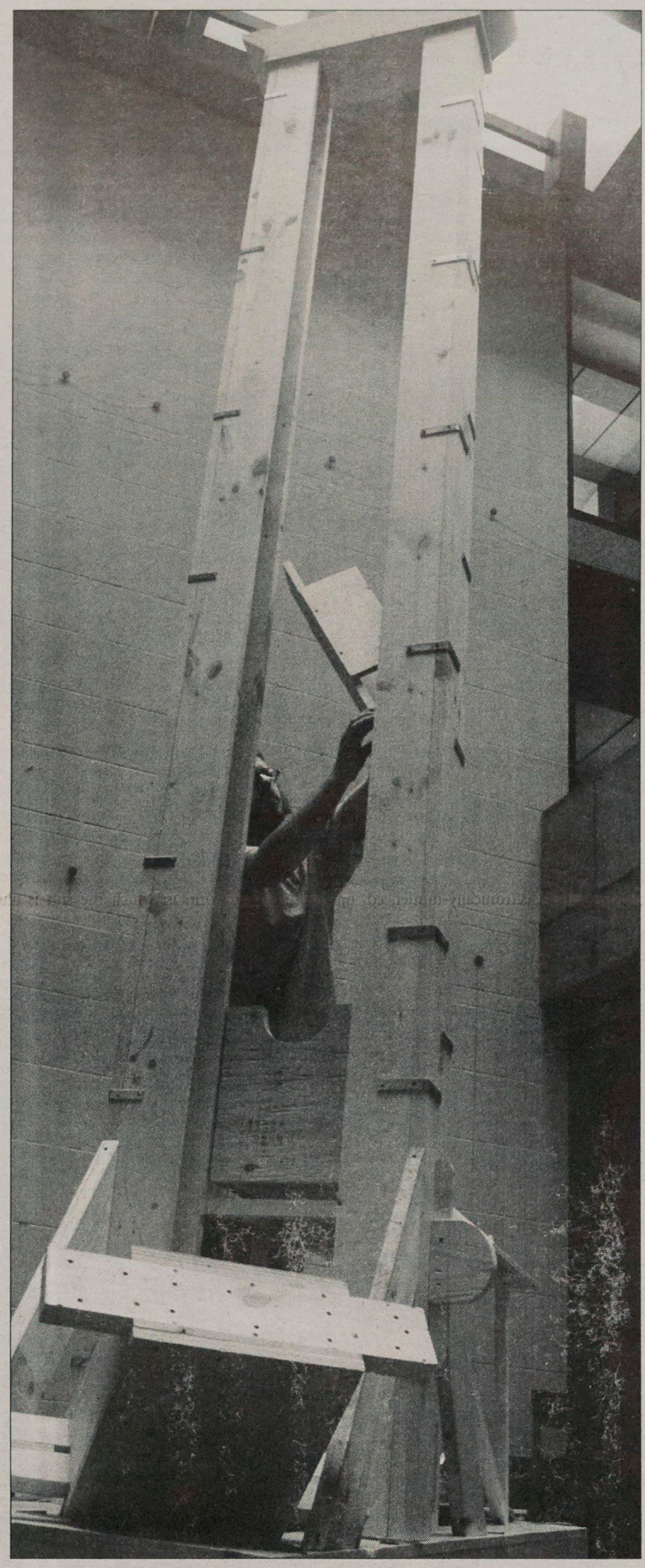
Koppel considers music and life

The Campus: How do you think your performance went?
Daniel Koppel: A few memory slips aside, the recital went smoothly. It was a tremendous learning experience, especially in terms of proper preparation techniques and the realities of performing a solo recital.
Campus: Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?
D.K.: I have always looked to the world around me and the human experience of it for inspiration. The great musicians and composers of the past and present are wonderful teachers and examples, and I have learned an immense amount from them. But on the deeper level of a source of purpose and a place from which I can draw creative energy, the world itself as seen and lived through in human life has always been my greatest resources. If learning of other ways to look at the world — to live — has been one of the most satisfying parts of studying music at Middlebury, it is largely because this kind of learning teaches me something about our present reality, our present experience of life, as well.
Campus: What has been the most satisfying part of studying music?
D.K.: I would have to say the views that it provides of cultures and times other than my own. Live music is a present, tangible, sensual manifestation of the particular world-view and aesthetic ideal of the composer as well as his or her place and time. I also have a great love and interest in the act of performance itself. The combination of celebratory ceremony and creative expression involved in artistic performance has intrigued me for most of my life.

Steele relaxes during recital

The Campus: Were you pleased with your performance?
Meredith Steele: After spending so many hours composing the music, I really had no idea how it would be received by the audience. I was really pleased with my performance, because I was able to be relaxed throughout the program. I avoided my tendency to rush through things, which made the performance more enjoyable for me as well as the audience.
Campus: What has been the greatest perk of your musical studies?
M.S.: Studying music has changed the way I listen, compose and conceptualize this auditory form of art. Music has such a large presence in all of our lives, so learning more about it is very empowering. It is a passion for me, and always has been, so to learn about it in an intellectual environment like Middlebury has been both stimulating and rewarding.
Campus: Where do you look for ideas?
M.S.: My greatest source of inspiration has probably been the Otter Nonsense Players. During my time at Middlebury I was a part of the group as the musical player. Playing improv piano was extremely fun and also really sharpened my ability to improvise.

CONSTRUCTING GUILLOTINES



Schuyler Van Horn

Recalling the morbid spirit of the French Revolution, Asa Thomas-Train '05 constructs a guillotine in a Johnson studio.

The Middlebury Campus
ONLINE
a brand new look | web exclusives | interactive message boards
PLUS! all the latest campus news, arts events, sports scores and additional photos
make it your homepage for one-click access to webmail, dining hall menus, bannerweb and more

New age artists synthesize sounds

By Hans Manzke
Staff Writer

Many would argue that the increasing incorporation of electronic musical instrumentation and technology into the larger corpus of music has had an identifiable and perhaps deleterious impact on the industry in general.

There are degrees of subtlety that many connoisseurs have come to cherish and expect from their favorite pop-folk, prog-rock and indie groups. This subtlety is due in large part to the inherent capacities of instruments like the acoustic and electric guitars. When substituted with looped samples and synthesizers, the organic identifiers that so many enjoy are replaced by the sterility of electronica.

Groups like Nada Surf, Ozma, The Stereo and Death Cab for Cutie all profess a distinct aversion to the musical extension of the saying "art for art's sake." Many groups in the late 90s and early parts of this century complicate and obfuscate their music to the point of total inaccessibility, solely for the purpose of distancing themselves as much as possible from what they consider the "mainstream."

The aforementioned groups produce music that is simultaneously challenging and lovely to hear — easy for the ear to appreciate and digest. While a premium is placed on melody, that melody is often completely original and always sonically stimulating. This melodic focus transmits well to the world of electronic instrumentation, providing a focus for its orderly, measured backdrop.

The burgeoning electronic-hybrid field extends beyond indie rock, as evidenced by the growth of electronically-influenced hip hop. While most of the production in this field of music takes place in a studio on electronic sampling, dubbing and recording equipment, a new sound called "grime" is quickly emerging from the English stomping grounds where it has evolved from the like-minded sounds of "speed" and "garage."

Nineteen-year-old East Londoner Dizzee Rascal embodies the subgenre perfectly, rhyming in an almost indecipherably thick English accent over beats, many of which he created himself on a Playstation.

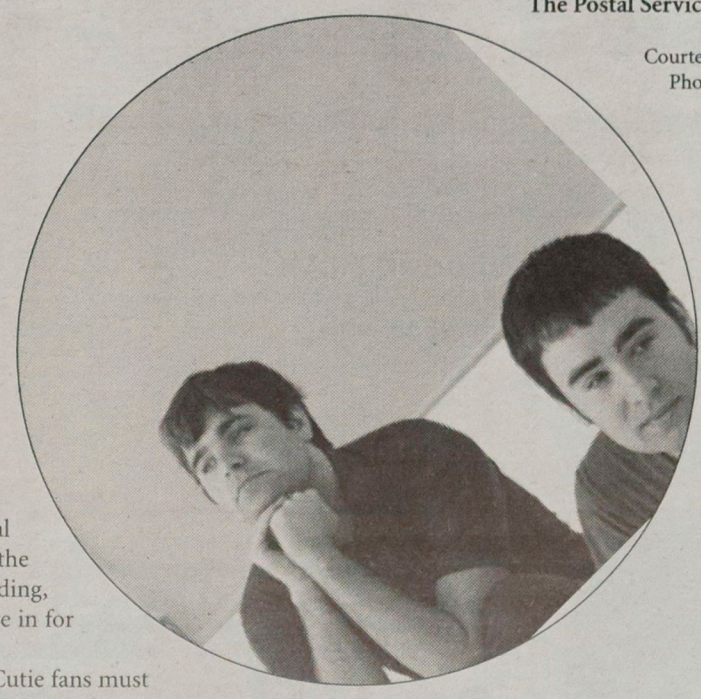
Electronically-influenced music is growing at an astonishing rate, and if Dizzee Rascal and The Postal Service are any indication of the direction in which it's heading, music lovers the world over are in for a treat.

Hardcore Death Cab for Cutie fans must have had some serious misgivings upon hearing that lead singer Ben Gibbard was collaborating with Jimmy Tamborello, veteran of the indie scene. Gibbard's voice is uniquely human — it is clear and sonorous, yet manages to drive the listener in a clearly defined direction. He seems to vocalize both the emotional yearnings of his listeners and the victorious realization of a great hope, dream or aspiration.

The guitars present in Death Cab for Cutie compliment his highly personal voice flawlessly. For these and other reasons, Gibbard seems an unusual candidate to pair with Tamborello, mastermind behind the electronically dominated outfit Dntel. However, as becomes plain upon listening to the pair's first effort under the moniker The Postal Service, "Give Up," something wonderful and timeless has been created.

Pairing the imitable human elements found in Gibbard's vocals with the clearly defined world of electronica, The Postal Service presents a world in which the sun is always shinning, in which the listener can feel clean and untroubled.

Even the group's forays into darker subjects, such as the haunting "This Place is a Prison" present a world with clear borders and boundaries, one in which little if anything is left to chance a reality many would welcome in this world of growing ambiguity and marginalization. Juxtaposed with the limitless possibilities of songs like "Such Great Heights" and "Clark Gable," Gibbard and Tamborello create a backdrop for a world in which the listener decides what and what not to do, think and feel.



The Postal Service

Courtesy Photo

After hearing this album through many times, I've grown attached to it. I've begun to feel the same things that Gibbard expresses in his vocals. When he says "I'll be the waterwings that save you if you start drowning / In an open tab when your judgement's on the brink / I'll be the phonograph that plays your favorite / Albums back as your lying there drifting off to sleep... / I'll be the platform shoes and undo what heredity's done to you... / You won't have to strain to look into my eyes," I believe him and feel more comfortable about all of the things that I must face in the real world.

"Give Up" resembles your favorite stuffed animal or toy from when you were a kid. It's the top down, the sun above and the road beneath. It's the music you want to hear when you watch the sunrise over the mountains in some beautiful, remote location. It's your first ride on a roller coaster.

Being all these things and more, The Postal Service's first offering represents a triumphal fusion of the best of indie rock and electronica.

LITERARY PICKS

BY EDWARD PICKERING

TITLE
THE BORDER TRILOGY
"All the Pretty Horses"
"The Crossing"
"Cities of the Plain"

AUTHOR
CORMAC MCCARTHY

Despite having only granted one interview in his career, and having avoided all public appearances, Cormac McCarthy is one of the best known writers in America. In 1992 he received the National Book Award for "All the Pretty Horses," a novel of haunting beauty and searing power. The movie of the same name, starring Matt Damon and Penelope Cruz, is only a pale approximation of the novel.

McCarthy's border trilogy, comprised of "All the Pretty Horses," "The Crossing" (published 1993), and "Cities of the Plain" (1998), chronicles the lives of two young men, John Grady Cole and Billy Parham, old school cowboys living in the American southwest.

The trilogy, set in the 1940s, portrays a way of life facing extinction. Cole and Parham are the last in a long lineage of frontiersmen on horseback, at home in the saddle and nowhere else. Yearning for the freedom of the old days, Cole and Parnham, in their respective novels, "All the Pretty Horses" and "The Crossing," venture into Mexico, a land seeped in violence and poverty. But in Mexico they also find the freedom, simplicity and hospitality of a bygone era. McCarthy, in these three novels, composes an elegy for the American West.

In "All the Pretty Horses" young Cole leaves his family's Texas spread, up for sale, and strikes out for Mexico with his good friend, Lacey Rawlins. South of the border, a young boy, also on horseback, falls in with them. Jimmy Blevins is his name, and he proves to be trouble. Cocksure, unafraid, Blevins loses his horse in a storm. In a small pueblo, the trio spots the horse, in the possession of a Mexican, then steals him. Blevins, astride his horse, races away.

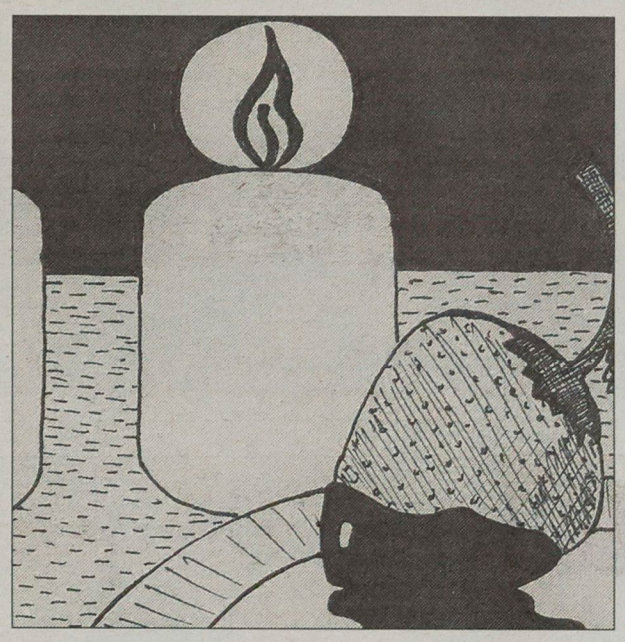
Rawlins and Cole find work on a hacienda, owned by a wealthy Mexican. They seem to have buried the horse-stealing episode until the hacendado discovers that his daughter and Cole are lovers. Then, all hell breaks lose and the novel's latter pages run crimson. McCarthy writes violence better than anyone. His spare, taut prose is a miracle of evocation — the cowboy's life of horse, plain, sky, and gun is rendered with breathtaking power. "The Crossing" and "Cities of the Plain" match "All the Pretty Horses" for quality of narrative and writing. Under McCarthy the American and Mexican landscapes and the cowboy's livelihood are shaped into visions to be revered. Marked by violence, but also passion, the trilogy describes the coming of age and eventual salvation of two young cowboys, out of step with the times, but in tune with the unforgiving landscape in which they choose to live.

is it art?

A LOOK AT THOSE WHO DARE TO STRETCH THE CREATIVE LIMITS

You have less than 72 hours to the day that will make or break you in the eyes of your boyfriend or girlfriend. Don't fret 'cause that's just enough time to master the art of seduction. Unfortunately, guys, we have a bit more pressure than our female counterparts.

While the ladies are obviously expecting chocolates, roses and diamonds, there's no reason that we can't cookup a little culinary romance instead. Yeah, red flowers are precious and diamonds are forever but the key to enjoying a romantic Valentine's Day is spending time with your loved one. With some thought (I'm taking care of that one), creative ambiance and a few well thought preparations, a picture perfect evening could be yours.



To start the day, send your signficant other an e-mail — ask her to drop by your place at around 10 o'clock on Saturday evening. Tell her the attire is formal as most girls like to dress to impress. If that's the case, you should be sporting your chic-est suit.

Ambiance and menu are equally important to achieve a perfect romantic night. I suggest rolling out a picnic blanket on the floor of your dorm room. Dim the lights — definitely turn off the halogens and light a few candles. Take your phone off the hook, turn off Instant Messenger and play some mood-setting tunes.

Barry White's deep baritone has served as the soundtrack to many real-life love stories and may be the opening credit to yours. His song "The Biscuit" is definitely worth a listen. If you like more contemporary beats, Sade's sultry, velvet voice is a sure-win among lovers.

Having the sweet tooth that I do, I consider dessert to be the poetic highpoint of a meal. So we'll focus on concocting the perfect finale. I like simple yet sophisticated food. And I am a big fan of interactive dishes. I recommend long-stemmed strawberries and warm, melted chocolate.

To heighten the taste of the strawberries, I suggest soaking them in a glass of orange juice and pouring brown sugar over them. Shake them for a bit and then arrange the berries on a platter. Be creative and organize them into a heart. Yeah I know it's cheesy but it might earn you some brownie points. If you don't want to melt chocolate, nutella will work. No need for utensils because you'll be feeding each other. With the food and the atmosphere taken care of, now all you have to worry about is the conversation.

Once you've finished the food, the candles should be dying and the CD should be approaching its last track. Being the desperate males that we are, we now think its time to receive our gift. Hold on! Why not change it up a bit?

Return to the spirit of the predecessor of Valentine's Day, the ancient Roman celebration of Lupercalia, a festival of eroticism that honored Juno Februata, the goddess of feverish love. Annually, on the ides of February, love notes would be drawn to partner men and women for feasting and sexual game playing.

Take turns reading a sexy or romantic book aloud to each other. Or play the alphabet game! One person starts with the letter "A" and has to kiss a body part on the other person beginning with that letter. The other person starts with "B" and so on. If you can't think of a body part for a letter, make one up! By the time you get to "Z" (if you do), you just might want to play again!

If those games are too much, rent a movie that you both agree is hilarious. Every time one of you laughs, kiss each other. Whoever laughed the least gets to choose a romantic idea to do after the movie.

Whatever you decide, you want your love to know exactly how you feel about her. The key to impressing your sweetheart is not finding the perfect gift. You want to be where you heart is — that's where the romance (and fun) comes in.

—CHRIS GROSSO, ARTS EDITOR

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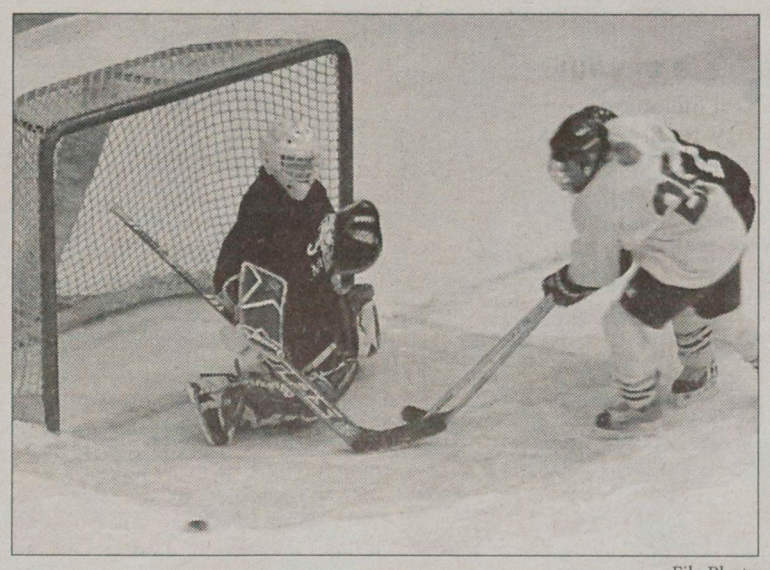
Women's ice hockey eyes top spot

By Mike Kennedy
Staff Writer



File Photo

The women's team has stepped up its intensity as the season rolls on.

The Middlebury women's hockey team continued its hot streak this past week, picking up NESCAC wins over Wesleyan and Trinity and a victory over current national number one Plattsburgh. The Panthers have now won 10 games in a row over Division III opponents, and stand at 16-3 on the season. They have risen to the second spot in United States College Hockey Online (USCHO)'s current poll, trailing only Plattsburgh, whom they have now defeated twice this year. The Panthers, however, still trail Bowdoin in the race for home ice advantage in the NESCAC playoffs, but will face off against the Polar Bears in Maine this weekend.

Heading into last Tuesday's game against Plattsburgh, the Panthers were well aware of the talent of the Cardinals, having been forced to come from two goals behind in the third period in their previous victory over the team. It would be another battle of two highly ranked teams, as both came into the game ranked in the top four in the country. Plattsburgh once again jumped out to the early lead, as they netted a power play goal just four minutes into the contest, and would take that lead into the first intermission. Middlebury's Hannah Delong '06 scored the only goal of the second period, tying the game and setting up the decisive final stanza. In the third period, the Panthers got consecutive goals from Lorna Gifis '05, her team leading 15th and 16th of the season, and first-year Emily McNamara, whose power play goal at the midway point of the period held up as the game winner. Plattsburgh did get a late goal to cut the lead to one, and had a late power play opportunity, but the Panthers held on for the win. Senior Kati Madouros was solid in the net for the Panthers, making 22 saves to preserve the victory.

The Panthers traveled to Connecticut last weekend for an important pair of NESCAC games. Faltering in either contest would all but ensure Bowdoin the top seed and home ice advantage in the NESCAC playoffs, which begin February 28. With that in mind, the Panthers dominated play over the weekend, coasting to a 9-0 shutout of Wesleyan and an 8-0 blanking of Trinity.

Against Wesleyan, the Panthers got four point nights from Gifis and Emily Quizon '06, who lead the team with 36 points each. Madouros earned another victory in goal, stopping all seven shots the Cards could muster on net.

Trinity did not prove much more difficult for the Panthers, as they outshot the Bantams by a remarkable 65-12 margin. Highlights included Alli Liati's '05 two goal outburst, and Jackie Cohen's '05 first goal of the year. Kate Kogut '06 picked up the win in goal.

The Panthers will hope to ride their hot streak into Maine this weekend, when they square off against Colby and Bowdoin. A pair of wins would give the Panthers a shot to host the NESCAC final four on March 6-7. Otherwise, they may be forced to travel back to Maine in their quest to regain the NESCAC championship. With this lofty goal locked into the sights of every single skater, Panthers look poised and ready to earn the NESCAC crown and success at a natioanl level.

Track team takes on D-1 schools

By Ryan Reese
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middlebury track team visited Hanover, N.H., this past Saturday, where not only did they face fierce Division I competition, but they continued to knock off Middlebury track records while gearing up for the upcoming postseason. With many of the competitors beginning to peak during this critical home stretch of the season, Middlebury's men and women look to have strong individual performances during NESCAC and NCAA championship meets.

At Dartmouth, strong performances were recorded across the board for the Panthers. With two more Middlebury track records falling to new spectacular efforts and a number of Panther speedsters setting qualifying times for NCAA's, the indoor track squad had yet another successful weekend.

With last week's highlights including Matt Horesta's '06 new school mark in the 1,000-meter run, where will the highlight reel choose to start this week? No doubt, the men's 1,000. Nick Digani '05 rose to Horesta's challenge and trumped his teammate's previous effort. By running a blistering 2:33 1,000-meters, Digani shattered the week old mark by an astounding five seconds. When asked to comment about his record-breaking performance, Digani said, "I was ready to run a good thousand, and with strong competition, I ended up running a strong, quick time." Hold on folks, there's more to come. The records continued to tumble. In the 3,000-meter run, Jon Erwin '05 streaked to a finishing time of 8:59, breaking his own record, set in 2003, by two seconds. "I was looking to break 9:00 and I am still trying to get down to 8:56 in order to qualify for some of the later postseason meets," said Erwin about this past weekend's happenings.

The women also had an outstanding day. Megan Gambino '06 missed the qualifying time in the 1,000-meter run by less than a half of a second. Not to be denied, Gambino finished the race in 3:13 and shaved enough time to make herself eligible for NCAA Division III's. Against Division I talent, Maryanne Porter '04 found herself earning sixth place honors in the 400-meter run. This was a remarkable finish, but her best was yet to come. While anchoring the Middlebury 4x400 relay, Porter took the baton and dominated by motoring her way to a sub-minute finishing mark.

With only one meet remaining on the Panther schedule before the postseason barrage sets in, the Middlebury athletes have their eyes focused on success now and throughout the spring. While their obvious goals are to perform well throughout the remainder of the indoor season, the ultimate goal for many of our runners lies outside. When the weather warms up, the big dogs in track come out to play. The Panthers envision success in the remainder of the indoor season and wish to carry that momentum into the outdoor campaign.

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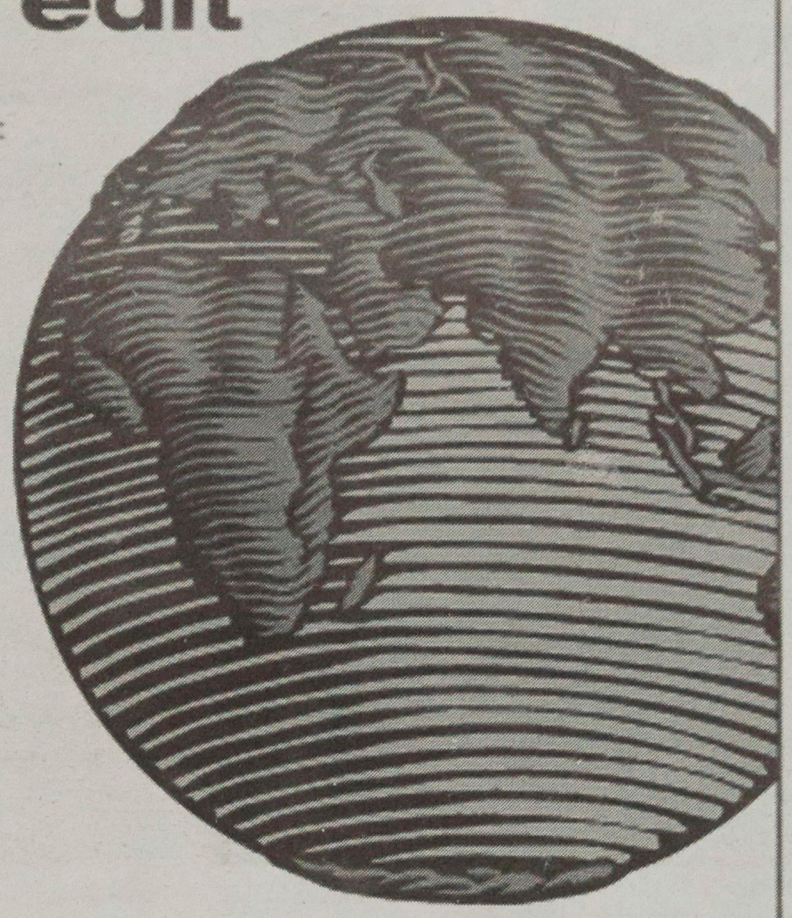

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Hardwood men look to playoffs

Albert Bitici

Simon Behan '05 and the Panthers have had trouble controlling and winning close games in the regular season.

By Dan Russell
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College men's basketball team, after suffering tough losses against Amherst, Williams and Wesleyan, seemed to recover its rhythm as they traveled to Green Mountain College, but stumbled Tuesday night in a disappointing 72-67 loss at Skidmore. The Green Mountain game was never in doubt as Middlebury shot 46 percent from the field and out-rebounded the Eagles 50-38, pulling out an 83-74 win. Co-captains Nate Anderson '04 (24 points) and David Coratti '04 (15 points) both had big games for the Panthers, while Clark Read '05 added 13 points.

The Panthers traveled to Maine three days later for a NESCAC match up against Colby College. Middlebury led throughout the game, and an 8-1 run in the second half, with 12:03 left to play, gave Middlebury a 48-38 lead. Colby made a late run to cut the Panther lead to three with 3:03 remaining, but the Panthers sunk 10 of their 12 free throws at the end and went on to earn their first NESCAC win of the season, 73-64. The Panthers shot 46 percent from the floor, as well as 50 percent from behind the arc, while limiting the White Mules to only 36 percent shooting. Anderson had 23 points and 10 rebounds while Read (10 points) and Simon Behan '05 (16 points) also played well.

Middlebury then continued its Maine trip against Bowdoin College. The Panthers started out cold, shooting only 21 percent from the field, as Bowdoin went into halftime leading 31-21. Middlebury would never establish a rhythm in the game as Bowdoin continued its onslaught in the second half, going on an 11-2 run at the 7:01 mark to stretch their lead as they pulled out a 72-48 win over the Panthers. On a brighter note, Anderson scored 13 points, becoming the 14th player in school history to surpass the 1,000-point mark with 1,003 (see SportsBriefs, p. 23). He is the first to do so since Greg Poulos '98 accomplished the feat.

Middlebury continued its NESCAC play against Wesleyan. The Panthers seemed to have recovered their intensity as they jumped out to an early 20-6 lead against the Cardinals. Middlebury's misfortune would continue, however, as the Cardinals slowly chipped away and eventually took the lead going into halftime 39-38. At one point in the second half Middlebury regained the lead 63-56, but once again losttheir grip, as a 10-1 run at the 6:47 mark put Wesleyan ahead once again, 71-69. The Cardinals eventually won 83-81 at Middlebury. John Donnelly '04 led Middlebury with 22 points, while first-year Bobby Marcoux '07 added 18.

Middlebury achieved some measure of redemption in its final home game at Pepin Gymnasium against Connecticut College. The Panthers went on a 10-2 run in first half to take a 47-31 lead and opened the second half on an 8-0 run, at one point leading by as many as 32 in the second half before coming away with a 92-64 win. Read led the team with 20 points, while Mike Salek '05 scored 15 and Adam Sinoway '05 added 13.

Salek said, "We've fallen on some hard times, but we're sticking together through the adversity. This weekend we played well, and I feel optimistic about the rest of the season. Our remaining NESCAC games are winnable, we just have to go out there and get it done." Donnelly added, "The win against Connecticut College was a solid all-around effort with a balanced scoring attack and suffocating pressure defense. We might have guaranteed ourselves a playoff spot with the win." The Panthers will play Skidmore next, before playing their final two NESCAC games against Tufts and Bates.

Women's hoops notches 11-9 mark

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

While the majority of the student body headed away from campus for Feb. break, the women's basketball team embarked on a series of games that had the potential to make or break their season. In a game prior to break, Plattsburgh came to Middlebury and kept it close throughout the first half. At the break, the Panthers held a 33-26 lead that remained relatively steady as the game moved into the final stages. Finally, an 11-2 run by Middlebury put the game out of reach as the Panthers pulled out a 64-48 win. In an excellent team performance, four of the Middlebury starting five ended up in double figures with Lacey Hebert '06 dishing out eight assists on the night.

A few days later, the Colby White Mules arrived and the teams produced one of the most exciting games of the season. An early run by Colby saw the visitors jump out to a large 30-18 lead, which increased to 39-28 at the break. After being outplayed in the first half, the team that emerged in the second half was almost unrecognizable as the women exploded on their way to a 26-6 run, spanning the first 11 minutes of the second half. Elyse Carlson '05 hit three of her five three-pointers during the run, totaling 17 points on the night. Middlebury would take a lead as big as 16 points, yet the White Mules cut it to as few as seven with 23 seconds on the clock. That was as close as it would get though, as the Panthers emerged with a 76-67 win that had looked extremely unlikely at the end of the first half. Once again, the starting five carried the load with Katie Fehsenfeld '06 leading all scorers with 20 points on 8-13 shooting.

In the final contest of a three game home stand, Middlebury took on the number one ranked team in the nation, Bowdoin College. It was the Panthers, however, who came out looking like the better team, opening up a 22-10 lead that would eventually be reduced to three points at the half-time interval. During the latter stages of the game though, Bowdoin were able to hold Middlebury without a point for over five minutes, and although the Panthers would cut the deficit to just three points, that was as close as they would come, eventually falling 60-53. Give the women credit though, for pushing a Bowdoin team that came into the game boasting an unbeaten record. Alexis Batten '04 led the Panthers with 16 points, while Alexis Hollinger '05 picked up an enormous double-double with 10 points and 15 boards.

Middlebury then took to the road for a three game road-trip, which unfortunately started in defeats against Hamilton and Wesleyan.

Albert Bitici

The women's basketball team is looking to pick up the momentum for postseason play in the coming weeks.

Hollinger continued her great form though, collecting a pair of double-doubles to go with the previous one against Bowdoin. With a record of 10-9, Middlebury then hosted Connecticut College (7-11). Desperate to get the season back on track, the Panthers came flying out of the gates and established a 32-22 lead after the first half. Spurred on by another phenomenal performance by Hollinger, Middlebury would go on to rout the visitors by a score of 80-58 with the junior picking up 19 points and 12 rebounds on the day.

With just two games remaining in the regular season the Panthers will want to build on the great performance against Connecticut College. Visits from Tufts and Bates will conclude the regular season, after which, the Panthers will hope for a successful post-season run into the latter stages of February.

Swimmers take aim at postseason

By Ryan Reese
Assistant Sports Editor

Although the men's and women's diving and swimming squads suffered a pair of setbacks over the past week, they continued to gain crucial experience and build confidence. After this past week's competitions against Williams, Dartmouth and at Middlebury's own Invitational, only the NESCAC and NCAA tournaments remain in the Panther campaign. Middlebury looks to be very competitive for the NESCAC crown by utilizing the depth of its roster. With many of the swimmers and divers having earned qualifying marks, they also have their sights set on success at a national level.

On Saturday, Jan 31, both the men's and women's teams made the trip to Williams with hopes of extending their four-meet winning streaks. Although both squads tried in earnest to emerge victorious, the Ephs proved to be too strong. With the men falling by a score of 184-166 and the women suffering a 181-119 loss, the Panthers were still able to achieve great things. With Tim Lux '07, Alex Demas '06, Rob Collier '07 and David Hawkins '05 winning events, these Panthers earned valuable confidence points against the stiff Williams competitors. On the women's side of things, Barbara Van der Veer '07 won two events. Also, two of the women's relay squads ended up making the NCAA B cuts. Van der Veer, Lizzy DeWitt '04, Martha Goebel '04 and Taylor Bolz '04 achieved this feat in the 200 medley while Van der Veer, Dewitt, Goebel and Teague Douglas '06 did the same in the 200 freestyle.

On Feb 4, Dartmouth visited the Natatorium and handed the teams matching losses. Although the women fell victim to the division I swimmers by a score of 125-110, all was not lost. Against these tough DI athletes, Bolz won the 100-yard breaststroke, Dewitt won the 100-yard backstroke, Sarah Groff '04 won the 500-yard freestyle and Tessa Truex '05 won the three-meter diving competition. The Middlebury men lost by a count of 124-97 with Demas winning the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200 freestyle relay team of Hawkins, Jason Korsmeyer '05, John Rayburn '06 and Matt Clark '04 dominated the competition with a time of 1:29.90.

At this weekend's Middlebury Invitational, Bolz went out in style on Senior Day by setting the pool record in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 32.21. Also, Tessa Truex and Courtney Campbell '04 met the NCAA qualifying standards in the women's one-meter diving event. On the men's side of things, Tris Arscott '06 qualified for NCAA's in the one-meter diving competition.

With only the postseason meets ahead, the Panthers will take these next two weeks to prepare. With a NESCAC crown up for grabs and national success within reach, the pool will be busy with swimmers looking to strengthen their stroke in these closing weeks of the 2003-2004 campaign.

Cooper Resets Record

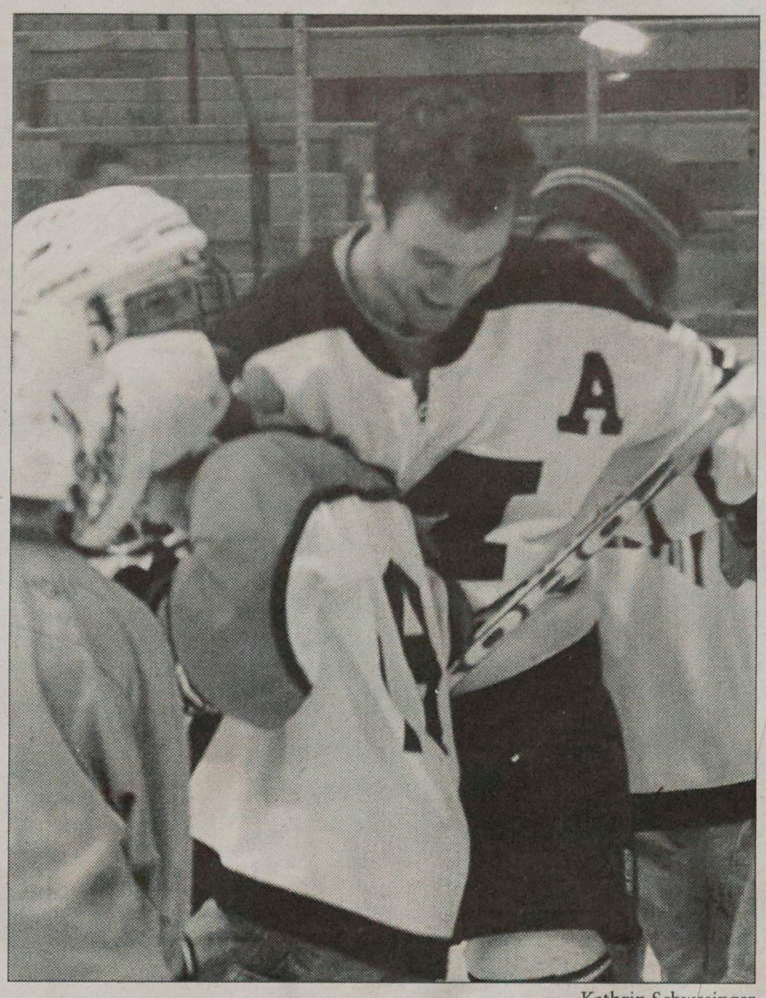
87th goal makes senior all-time leading scorer

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

The Chicago Bulls had Michael Jordan, the San Franscisco 49ers had Joe Montana, the New York Yankees had Babe Ruth and Middlebury College has Kevin Cooper '04.

Nine minutes and 37 seconds into the second period against UMass-Boston on Saturday Jan. 31, the Middlebury men's hockey history books were rewritten. A new name was etched as Middlebury's all-time leading goal scorer when Cooper converted again, for the 80th time in his illustrious career. Since that goal, the senior has gone on to score seven more times, taking his current tally to 87 with four regular season games remaining before his final post-season quest.

The Middlebury star didn't start playing until he was nine years old after growing up in the Northwest Territories, north of the border. After moving to Toronto he began to take shape as a hockey player, later playing for two years at New Hampton Prep School. Cooper was recruited by Middlebury from New Hampton and has since enjoyed one of the most successful careers of any Middlebury player in recent memory.



Kathrin Schwesinger

Kevin Cooper '04 has become a crowd favorite for his goal-scoring flair.

Of course no individual records are ever set without it being a reflection of the team with which they are accomplished, and Cooper is quick to acknowledge that this team is the closest that he has known in his time here. He commented, "The team is extremely close and we really trust and respect each other." The first-years have been thrust into action quicker than in previous years too, and their ability to adapt and step-up is one of the key reasons that Cooper cites for the team's success this year.

In discussing the record itself, Cooper admits that he didn't have it on his mind at the start of the season, but as the goals rained in, people started talking about it. "Of course it was in the back of my mind, and I was happy to get it out of the way and move on." Thankfully, the record-breaking goal came with several games remaining in the season so it never became a burden for him. Now Cooper is free to work on trying to deliver a National Championship to Kenyon Arena.

Ironically, it's not the game against UMass-Boston that Cooper pin points as being the one that he will remember most from his career at Middlebury. Instead, he picks the game against Plattsburgh just four days earlier. In a stunning first period against the fourth-ranked team in the country, the Panthers amassed six goals en route to a famous 8-1 victory. After opening the scoring after just 35 seconds, Cooper scored his second, and record-tying 79th goal for Middlebury's third, just nine minutes into the contest. Looking on was Mark Spence '98, a friend and former coach of Cooper, and the previous all-time goal scorer. After tying the record, the 80th goal would have to wait a little, but it wasn't long in coming.

With four games to go, Cooper insists that the team is still focusing on the near future, although he confirms that a National Championship is still in the back of their minds. Cooper commented, "We just want to get better every game and keep rolling, although of course a National Championship is still the overall goal." He continued, "It's great to have Coach Beaney back — he makes us all work harder and he's a huge part of the success of the team."

So what's next for Panthers' number 11 when the curtain comes down on his Middlebury career? "I'd like to play in Europe. I'm actually working right now on trying to put something together in Switzerland or Sweden." Few would doubt that Cooper will succeed wherever he continues to play hockey after graduation, and it would be the perfect send off for the all-time leading goal scorer if he is able to leave Middlebury, championship pendant in hand.

Squash suffers narrow home loss

By Peter Yordan
Senior Staff Writer

For once the longest trek the women's squash team had to make to get to their match was the chilly walk from main campus to the gym. Playing in their first home game in seven years, the squad suffered a hard luck 5-4 defeat to Vassar College last weekend. The loss wraps up their regular season at 7-5, likely forcing the team to compete in the C division of Nationals two weeks from now.

"We played well — it was just that at a couple of key spots a couple of people had off days," said Hannah Baker '07, the team's number one seed. "We wanted it really badly and we played really hard, so that wasn't the problem." Baker walked away with a strong 3-1 win, but team two and three seeds Holly Haertel '05 and Amanda Knappman '04 each fell 3-0 to their opponents. Beth Seeley '05 won 3-1 at the four spot, but senior co-captains Liza Franyo and Britt Cosgrove were both shut out 3-0. Lauren Smith '05 and Kea Anstey '05 kept the contest close with a pair of wins in the seven and nine spots, while Caitlin Flint '06 became the fifth Panther on the day to fail to win a game, losing 3-0 to tip the balance toward Vassar.

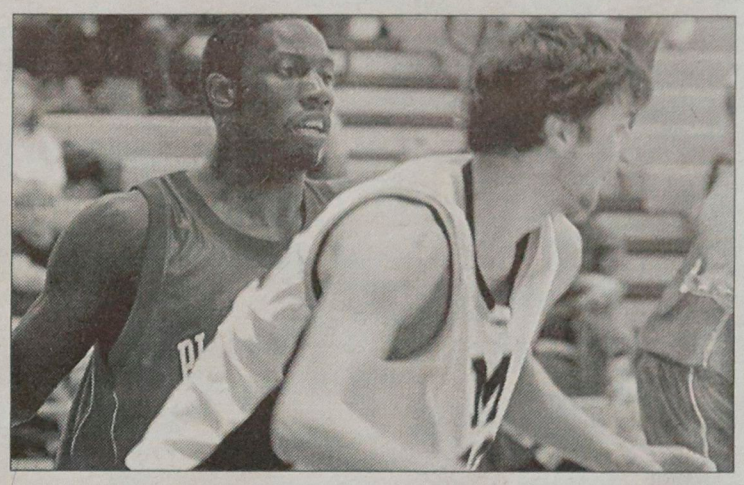
The loss was a tough pill to swallow for a squad looking to impress its home fans at its first home match in years. In the past the squash team was condemned to travel to every match due to the antiquated North American style courts that inhabited the old Fletcher Field House. With the installation of new regulation-sized international courts last year the team was finally able to play host to a rival team. The players immediately noticed the home court advantage. "We weren't sluggish going on the court after getting out of the van," said Baker. "It was really fun. A lot more people than we really expected showed up to watch us. It's easier getting psyched up to play when there are people you know that are watching you."

Post-season play looms on the horizon for the team, despite a set of tough losses that will relegate them to the C division of the National Championship. Middlebury normally competes in the B division, but despite the setback the squad is eager to make the most of their opportunity. "We're lower than we'd like to be at this point," admitted Baker. "Our goal is to win the C division, and I think we've got a good shot."

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY DAVE FREEDMAN

Anderson tops 1,000 points



Nate Anderson '04 broke the four digit barrier with consistent scoring.

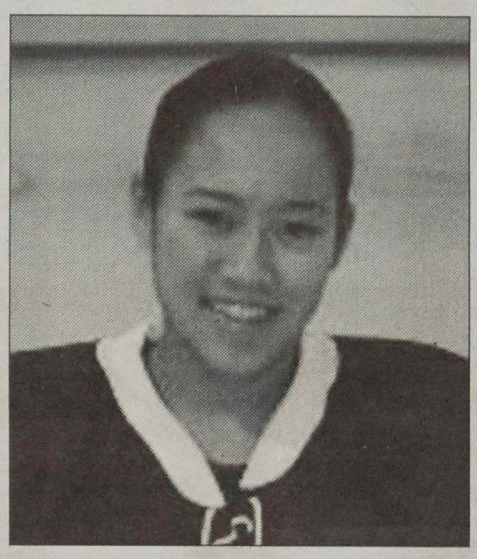
Nate Anderson '04 became the 14th basketball player in College history to score 1,000 points when he netted his 10th point in Middlebury's losing effort against Bowdoin College Jan. 31 . Anderson led the team with 13 points on the afternoon, putting his current career total at 1,003. Anderson leads the team in points and rebounds per game, averaging 15.0 and 7.1 respectively. With 255 points on the season, Anderson became the first to reach the milestone since Greg Poulos '98.

Lax coaches inducted to New England hall of fame

Middlebury's men's and women's lacrosse head coaches, Erin Quinn and Missy Foote, respectively, were both inducted into the New England Lacrosse Hall of Fame in the nine person class of 2003 that was announced Jan 24. Quinn has led the Panthers to three National Championships and has never lost a NESCAC postseason game. He has also led his teams to win two Ace Adams Sportsmanship awards and has earned coach of the year honors in New England four times since entering his 13th season at the helm of the program.

In her 23rd year as head coach of the women's team, Foote has guided the team to four National Championships, coached the Panthers to 10 straight national semifinal appearances, earned National Coach of the Year awards five times and has garnered three undefeated seasons at Middlebury. Quinn and Foote have amassed amazing records during their tenures with 156-30 (80 percent) and 246-64 (79 percent) career wins and losses respectively.

Quizon dominates NESCAC



Emily Quizon '06 earned 10 points in three games to earn NESCAC Player of the Week honors.

Courtesy Photo / Athletic Department

Emily Quizon '06 powered the women's ice hockey team to an undefeated week in conference play with five goals and five assists in three games to earn NESCAC player of the week over Feb. break. Quizon is leading the Panthers and the league in assists with 21, and with three more games in the regular season she has already surpassed her 29 points from her first year with a total of 30, putting her in second place in NESCAC. The sophomore from Chino Hills, Calif., is the first female athlete to win player of the week honors in the 2003-2004 winter season for the number two nationally ranked Panthers.

Men's squash falls at home

The men's squash team enjoyed home court advantage for the first time this season in its final match of the year against Vassar College last Sunday. The team dropped the match 7-2 but had some gutsy efforts on the day. Alex Nadas '06 won handily 3-0 (9-1, 9-6, 9-2) at the top spot on the ladder and Charlie Bettigole '05 bested his opponent 3-0 (9-4, 9-3, 9-3) at the seventh position. Middlebury's Andrew Giordano '04, Mike Gillim '04 and Chris Ingram '07 all battled hard, wrestling at least a game from the Brewers in the 3-5 spots and leading for much of their matches before falling.

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GAMES TO WATCH

SKIING
AT DARTMOUTH
FEB. 13 | DARTMOUTH

MEN'S HOCKEY
AT TRINITY
FEB. 14 | 3 P.M.

campus sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2004

SKIERS MAKE HISTORY

Nordic, alpine teams cap historic carnival win with two more

By Sean Breen
Staff Writer

The Middlebury alpine and nordic ski teams are changing history this year. In 1983 the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA) began combining the alpine and nordic team scores to create a single carnival champion at collegiate events. Middlebury had never won a carnival race until Jan. 23 of this year, and they have not lost since then. After making history with a win at the Colby Carnival, they repeated the performance with a victory at the St. Lawrence Carnival two weeks ago and continued their dominance by winning the University of Vermont (UVM) Carnival this past weekend.

Still, winning was not enough. With this past weekend's win, Middlebury skiing has continued to make history. Middlebury's victory at the UVM Carnival marked the first time in the 31-year history of UVM's carnival that the Catamounts have lost on their home mountain.

The nordic team's dominance has, more than anything, helped secure these victories. Two weeks ago, at St. Lawrence, the men's nordic team outperformed all expectations and took the second through fifth positions in the 20K race. The Panthers were led by Garrot Kuzzy '06, who finished a mere 1:09 off the winning pace with a time of 1:02:38. Colin Rodgers '04 was only seconds behind in third with a time of 1:03:07, followed by Marshall Greene '04 and rookie Dan Skold '07 in fourth.

Not to be outdone, the women put three in the top seven in the 15K race. Kate Newick '04 led the way, winning in exciting fashion with a time of 54:49 — only a second better then Dartmouth's Chrissy May. Kate Whitcomb '04 finished fifth with a time of 55:44, followed by Claire Anderson '06 in seventh.

Albert Bitici
David Coriell '06 carves down the Snow Bowl in preparation for the team's potential fourth straight carnival win.

In Giant Slalom (GS), the men were led by Peter Phillips '05, who placed third with at time of 1:50.83, only 1.5 seconds off the winning pace. John Rusten '04, coming off a knee injury, finished sixth (1:51.23) and Eric Rygg '04 was eighth. The women, again, did equally well. Rookie Lindsay Brush '07 proved she's ready for any challenge by finishing third with a time of 1:53.45, less than a second off the winning pace. Laura Scripture '04 placed 11th followed by another rookie having an impressive season, Tara Martin '07 in 16th.

Middlebury's alpine team was just as strong in Slalom. On the men's side, Rusten placed fourth to lead Middlebury with a time of 1:40.14, less then three seconds off the leader. David Coriell '06 was less then a second behind in sixth, and Fred Emich '04 followed in seventh. Rygg rounded out the top finishers in ninth, giving Middlebury four of the top 10 times. Scripture, who finished fourth with a time of 1:39.20, led the women's squad. Jessica Smith '05 placed sixth, while Martin came in 11th.

Moving to this equally historic past weekend, alpine and nordic skiers did nothing but improve. Brush continued to impress, leading the women in the GS race, placing sixth with a time of 2:12.90, two seconds off the winning pace. Scripture finished right behind her in seventh, while fellow rookie Martin finished 11th. Scripture had a dominant second place finish in slalom, just missing the win by 0.10 seconds. Brie Pike-Sprenger '04 came in 11th, while Martin evened out her day with a 12th place finish.

The rough conditions shortened the men's GS race to only a single run, but the Panthers were not intimidated. Rusten showed his leadership and proved his knee is not an issue by placing third (1:01.28). He finished only 0.35 seconds off the leader's pace. Phillips broke into the top pack finishing fifth, while Rygg came in seventh. Rusten balanced out the day with an equally impressive third place finish in slalom, finishing 1:31.72, a mere second off the winning time. Emich came in seventh, while Rygg placed 13th.

On the Nordic side, Newick continued her leadership coming in second in the 5K classical race with a time of 19:03, only three seconds off the winner. Whitcomb came seconds behind in fourth, followed by first year Virginia Hamilton who came in eighth. Newick, Whitcomb and Anderson combined to win the 3x5 relay.

Kuzzy, who finished third in the men's 10K race, led the men's team once again. His time of 33:59 was a mere 22 seconds off the leader. Greene finished in seventh place while Jake Whitcomb '06 followed in his sister's footsteps coming in 14th. All and all, it was an impressive showing and a historic weekend for the Middlebury Panthers.

Fans on campus are holding their collective breaths as Winter Carnival approaches. The way the team has been performing, a home carnival win and possibly a national championship title are not out of the question.

Men's hockey powers to #1 in NESCAC, nation

Kathrin Schwesinger
Senior captain John Dawson jukes Amherst's netminder on a penalty shot to blow the game open for the team's third goal.

By Andreas Apostolatos
Staff Writer

With wins against Babson and UMass-Boston and conference victories over Hamilton and Amherst, the Middlebury men's hockey team remains atop the NESCAC and has climbed to the number one spot in NCAA Division III hockey, according to the latest United States College Hockey Online (USCHO) poll. The Panthers are currently riding a nine-game winning streak, and have won 14 of their last 15 games. Despite its lone NESCAC loss to Colby on Jan. 17, Middlebury is four points ahead of second-place Bowdoin, with only three league games left on the schedule.

"I think we've been on a roll recently," commented sophomore goaltender Yen-I Chen. "Guys on defense have been playing very well, Mark [Scheuer '04] has been playing great in goal and guys who need to score are scoring. But the important thing is not to get overconfident going down the stretch. We need to stay focused, especially since we have Trinity and Norwich coming up."

Middlebury has not simply been beating opponents as of late, it has been putting on one-sided offensive showcases. Dating back to the team's decisive 8-1 handling of a capable Plattsburgh team Jan. 27, the Panthers have managed 41 goals in the last six games. Middlebury edged Babson by 6-2, UMass-Boston by 9-2, Hamilton by 3-0, Amherst by 7-2 and Skidmore by 8-1.

While the Panthers' recent firepower can be attributed to a number of players' aptitude for putting the puck in the net, the bulk of the scoring work is, not surprisingly, thanks to senior assistant captain Kevin Cooper. In addition to being named NESCAC player of the week on Feb. 2, Cooper became Middlebury's number-one goal-scorer since 1965 (see Story, p. 23). Cooper has tallied a stunning eight goals and seven assists in the last five games and currently has 21 goals and 13 assists on the season. After breaking Mark Spence's '98 previous record of 79 career goals, set in the 1995-1996 campaign, Cooper has four more regular season contests to add to his current 87 career goals.

While Middlebury has certainly brought a fierce brand of hockey to the table in recent weeks, the Panthers can ill afford to loosen their grip in their remaining games. While currently in favorable standing to win the 2003-2004 regular season NESCAC crown, all four of the team's remaining games are included in its conference record. While the Panthers technically only have two NESCAC teams to play, Wesleyan and Trinity, their games against ECAC East opponents St. Michaels and Norwich are considered league games as well. Thus, Middlebury cannot allow themselves to consider their regular season NESCAC title a done deal by any means.

The Norwich Cadets team that the Panthers face to close out the regular season on Feb. 21 is currently second in Division III, according to USCHO's latest poll, and has been the top-ranked team in the poll for much of the season. With gritty play and a strong work ethic throughout the season's waning weeks, the Panthers can dominate.